THE HONOUR OF CHIVALRY:

OR,

The Famous and Delectable HISTORY

OF

DON BELLIANIS of GREECE.

CONTINUING

As well the valiant Exploits of that Magnanimous and Heroick Prince, Son to the Emperor *Don Bellaneo* of *Greece*, as of his two valiant Brothers, *Don Clarineo* of *Spain*, and *Don Lucidamore* of *Theſſaly*, and ſeveral of their Princely Champions, more particularly, that valiant Prince, *Peter* of *Ireland*, Knight of the *Keys*.

Wherein is concluded the War between the Souldan of *Babylon*, and the Emperor of *Trebizond*; and ſeveral Marriages made between thoſe Great and Royal Perſonages.

The Third Part.

Now newly written by *Fra. Kirkman.*

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To the Reader.

THe encouragement I received by writing the Second Part of this Hiſtory, hath induced me to proſecute it with a Third Part; wherein, I will aſſure you, I have out-done the Second, both in language, and contrivance of the Story. And I have taken more then ordinary pains in deſcribing the ancient Kingdom of *Ireland*, and many principal Cities and Towns long ſince ruined. If what I have written be but pleaſing to you, I may in ſhort time pleaſure you further, by writing another Hiſtory of this nature; whereby you may ſtill be pleaſured by

Your Friend,

Fra. Kirkman.

THE THIRD PART OF Don Bellianis of Greece:

OR,

The Honour of Chivalry.

Continuing the Valiant Exploits of that Heroick Prince, Son unto the Emperor *Don Bellaneo* of *Greece.*

CHAP. I.

Who the Knight of *Envy* and his Companions were, and the cauſe of their coming. A continuation of the Triumphs for two days longer; at the end whereof is an Inchantment upon the Knight of *Envy*, and a Propheſie who is to end the Adventure: ſeveral Knights make trial, but to their dammage. The Emperor of *Trebizond* not agreeing to ſeveral Propoſitions that were made him, the War is reſolved upon: a Meſſenger being ſent to *Baltazano*, he brings an anſwer, wherein he deſires help; for that *Floreza*, Siſter to the Emperor, had relieved the City of *Pharez*; whereupon 100000. men are ſent away by the Souldan, under the command of the Knight of *Hope* and his Companions.

IN the laſt Chapter of the ſecond Part of this honourable Hiſtory, an Adventure happened that was a great trouble to the Solemnities and Triumphs intended to be continued at the magnificent Wedding of the thrice Renowned and Gallant

Knight Don Bellianis of Greece, and the Peerless Princess Florisbella, Daughter to the Souldan of Babylon: for, as you may read in that place, on the fourth day of the Tournament, which was held in honour of that Wedding, it being agreed that the valiant Prince Don Clarineo of Spain, Brother to the Prince Don Bellianis of Greece, should maintain the Field for that day; he was encountred, and assaulted by a Knight in black Armor, having the figure of Envy painted on his Shield; who with the assistance of some valiant Knights that accompanied him, made great slaughter among the Knights that accompanied Don Clarineo; and had not Don Bellianis himself, and several of his Friends, left the place of the Tournament, and, arming themselves, returned and assisted in the fight, much more mischief had been done by the Knight of Envy, and his Companions: but he and his Assistants being vanquished, and Don Bellianis, and his Friends, relieved by the coming of the sage Bellaneo, that hazardous Adventure was finished; and, at the conclusion of that Chapter, it was promised, that an account should be given you, who this Knight of Envy was, and the occasion of his coming thither at that time.

Now, that you may be fully acquainted with the truth of this Adventure, it is necessary that you look back to the fifteenth Chapter of the second Part of this History; where you may find, that on the day of the Coronation of Duke Alfiron, and the Princess Persiana his Wife, Daughter to the Souldan of Persia, now King and Queen of Shyraz, that days Solemnities were obstructed, at the present, by the arrival of a Knight armed in azure Armor, and afterwards known by the name of the Knight of the Island of Pearles, (who being one of the Sons of one Gozmin, and formerly King of Shyraz, under the Souldan of Persia; but for some traiterous enterprize dispossessed of the same by the Souldan;) this Knight of the Island of Pearles coming at the day of the Coronation, and attending until the Herald, who proclaimed the said Duke Alfiron, and his Wife Persiana, King and Queen of Shyraz, Larr, and Jarrowne, and all the rest of the Territories and Dominions hereto belonging, had proclaimed it twice, according to custome, and being about to do so the last time, he then, going to the place where the King and Queen sate, told them, that he did come to contradict the Proclamation; saying, that so long as

he

he was alive, there could not be any other lawful King, for that he was the Son of the said Gozmin; and that, to justifie his Title, he was ready to enter the Lists with any Champion that they should appoint. This, as you may remember, was a sensible trouble to the King and Queen for the present; but Don Bellianis undertaking the combat on their behalf, and vanquishing the said Knight of the Island of Pearles, and because he would not acknowledge any other King but himself, he therefore cut off his head, and so finished the combat; as you may read more at large in the said second Part. Now you may also read, that the said Knight of the Island of Pearles had a Brother, and he it was, that under the name of the Knight of Envy, came and disturbed the last days Triumphs at the Wedding of Don Bellianis and Florisbella.

We need not acquaint you with the cause of his coming at this time to disturb this Royal Assembly; for you may soon judge it was to be revenged on Don Bellianis for his Brothers death. But withal he had a further design in it, for he intended either to seize on, or murther Alfiron and Persiana, the King and Queen of Shyraz; who, as he alledged, had usurped upon his right to the Kingdom; and that being done, by the help of his Friends, to have gotten possession of the Kingdom: but he was prevented, as you have already heard. And now these Troubles being over, nothing was thought of but Joyes and Triumphs; and to that end another Tournament was proclaimed to be kept for two days more; and Don Clarineo of Spain, who had been obstructed and disappointed by the late Adventure, was to keep the Field for the first day; and the Knight of Hope, who was Servant to Maroza Princess of Numidia, was appointed to keep the Field the second day: wherefore, according to this agreement, Don Clarineo of Spain, with fifty Knights in his company, entred the Lists, and gave the Ladies as much satisfaction by their valiant behaviour on that day, as they had received trouble on the last. And now the last day of the Tournament being come, the Knight of Hope, being armed in a white Armour, inlaid with the figures of Anchors of blew, and a picture of Hope on his shield, entred the Field; and his Lady the Princess, the more to honour him, had bestowed a rich Scarf of blew Silk, embroidered with Stars of Gold, which

he wore about his arm; and in this equipage accompanied with fifty Knights, all in the same colour'd Armor, he entred the Lists, and erected his Allaylant; and now, it being the last day intended for the Solemnity of the Feast, all the young Knights of the Court resolved to try their Fortunes, intending to gain Honour; but although several of them performed very well, yet he kept the Field to the last, and clearly bore away the Honour of that days Triumph, to the great satisfaction of the whole Court; but chiefly to the great pleasure of his Princess.

And now the Triumphs being ended, and all the Court ready to rise and leave their seats, a great noise of Trumpets was heard, at which every one wondering, looked towards the place from whence they supposed the noise came; but behold there was nothing but a great cloud, which being in some short time banished, they saw the Castle where the Knight of Envy was; and at the four corners of this Castle were placed four Trumpeters, who still continued sounding their Trumpets: also at the entrance of the Castle there were two Giants armed at all points, with Iron Maces in their hands, and broad cutting Fauchions by their sides; and fix'd on this side the Giants, there was a Pillar of Jasper, and on it hung a Table, whereon was written this Prophesie.

The Adventure of Redeeming and Releasing the Knight of *Envy*, and his Companions, from this Castle, is reserved to be finished by the young *Syconian Lion*, and the *Grecian Whelp*, who must accidentally meet here, and, by vanquishing the Guards, deliver them: Therefore let none be so bold, as to attempt their Deliverance; for it is to be accomplished by none but the two best Knights in the whole World, who shall here become acquainted, and, to the joy of their Parents, be reconciled, and shall be the occasion of an Universal Peace.

These were the words written on the Table; which when Don Bellianis had read, the Trumpeters ceased to sound their Trumpets; and he went back to his Father and Princess, to acquaint them with what he knew of this Adventure. But it was now so dark, that nothing further could be done in it, so that it was resolved to go to the Palace; whither they being come, it was the general discourse of all the Assembly; and it was resolved, that the

the next day trial ſhould be made of this Adventure: wherefore the next morning being come, and ſpent in the Palace, and dinner being ended, all the Court ſet forwards to the place of the inchanted Caſtle; and now none were to make trial of the Adventure, but ſuch as ſhould be thereto appointed by Don Bellianis; wherefore he ordered that the firſt that ſhould attempt it, ſhould be the Knight of Hope; who having performed ſo well in the laſt days Tournament, was in good hopes of obtaining more honour; but he was diſappointed: for no ſooner was he come in reach of the firſt Giant, who was Guardian of the Caſtle, but the Giant, ſcorning to uſe any arms againſt him, only took him in his arms, and graſped him ſo hard, that he made his bones crack; and notwithſtanding all his ſtruggling, he held him ſo faſt and ſo long, that his breath being ſpent, he was diſdainfully thrown as far as the Pillar of Jaſper. But he had not lain long there before he came to himſelf; but he was ſo ſore and weak, that he had no mind to renew the combat; wherefore the young Knights, who before were all very forward in trying their fortunes, but now, ſeeing the misfortune of the Knight of Hope, deſiſted: but however ſeveral approved good Knights offered themſelves to the trial of this Adventure, but Don Bellianis would not permit any ſingle Knight; for conſidering the mighty force of one of the Giants, he thought it impoſſible for any ſingle Knight to vanquiſh them both; and therefore he ordered that no leſs then two at once ſhould be permitted: the firſt two that made trial, were the Knight of the Flaming Sword, and the Prince of Meſopotamia; but all they could do, was to force the Giants to handle their Iron Maces, but it was to their coſt; for at the firſt ſtroak they were laid breathleſs on the ground. The next two that offered themſelves were Contumeliano Prince of Phœnicia, and Floriſpiano of Swevia, his Coſen; but they alſo, after half an hours combat, were reduced to the ſame condition with the former: and now all the reſt ſeeing the difficulty of the Adventure declined the combat; only the two Brothers of Don Bellianis, Don Clarineo of Spain, and Don Lucidamore of Theſſaly, ſet forwards to try their valours. Theſe two valiant Knights marched up with a confident bravery, and drawing their ſharp cutting Swords, and embracing their Shields, aſſaulted the two Giants with two ſuch blows

over

ober their helmets that they made the fire fly out, and forced the two Monsters to bow their heads; but they advancing their Maces, reached the Knights two such blows as made them kneel down; and had they not been nimble to have risen before the blows were doubled, they had certainly perished in this encounter; but knowing the danger of the blows they should receive, they nimbly got up, and stepping on one side avoided their fury; but so mighty were the forces of these Giants, that both their Maces were forced two foot at least into the earth, and they could not at present get them out again; which the two Knights seeing, came upon them with so great courage and force, that they inforced these two Giants to kiss the ground; but they soon arose, and being sensible of the blows they had received, drew out their Maces, but only laid them by them, and drawing their Faulchions, attended the approach of the two Knights; who being incouraged by their last two blows, again approached the Giants, but to their cost, for they received two such blows on their Helmets, that they were cut in pieces, and their heads disarmed; and they seeing the danger they were in retired, and so went to take other Helmets: but Don Bellianis would not permit them to attempt the combat any further; which the Giants seeing, put up their Faulchions, and took up their Maces, and stood in the places and manner they had formerly done: and this was all that for that time was done, or attempted in this Adventure; for all the Knights present seeing the ill success of the combat with these Knights, who were known to be of the valiantest in the World, made no further attempts; only Peter of Ireland had a great desire, but Don Bellianis would not permit him.

And now this Adventure of the inchanted Castle being prosecuted as much as was convenient, and all the Triumphs of this magnificent Wedding being ended, Don Bellianis did propose to the Souldan, his Father in Law, the finishing the War with the Emperor of Trebizond, and offered his service to go in person about it; but the Souldan would not by any means consent to that: neither would the Princess Florisbella hear of any such proposition, telling him, that she had rather lose ten such Empires, then permit him to take so long a journey, especially in so hazardous and troublesome a War; wherefore another way was pro-

propesed; which was, that the Emperor of Trebizond, who was then in prison, should be treated with, to see if he would grant that willingly, which it was impossible for him to hinder; and thereupon Messengers were sent to treat with him, who had fair propositions to offer; for they alledging, and that with truth enough, that the Emperor was the only cause of the War, it was therefore but just and fit, that he should pay all the damage and expence of the same; and if he would do so, or leave the Souldan in quiet and peaceable possession of that part of his Dominions which he had already conquered, then he should not only have a peace, but be restored to his liberty. These were the propositions that were made to the Emperor; who as low as he was in his present misfortunes, yet he was high in his own opinion, and so in his reply; for having lost that which he chiefly aimed at, the Princess Florisbella, he was so inraged, that he cared not what he did; but replied, that his pretensions to the Princess Florisbella, being the effects of his love, he thought they were but just, and therefore he could not be justly taxed with being the only cause of the War; for if the Princess had been granted to him, the War would have ended; but since it was so, that the Princess was otherwise disposed of, and thereby he was frustrated in his expectations, he thought it was but just, that he should be restored to his liberty, and his Empire restored to him: but he thus closed, that if this would not be granted, he questioned not but that he had so many loyal Subjects in his own Dominions, and so many Friends and Allies abroad, that he should gain that by force which was denied him. This was the answer of the Emperor, which was judged to be so unreasonable, that it was concluded on all hands, that the War should be vigorously prosecuted; and to that end Letters were presently sent away to Don Baltazano, to know of him the condition of the Army under his command, and in what condition the Enemies were; that they might from thence conclude what Forces were necessary to be raised. A Messenger being dispatched to Don Baltazino, who was left with an hundred thousand men at the siege of the City of Pharez, which was fortified, and defended against him by the King of Albania, and the Knight of the Tyger, as is before declared: This Messenger was not long before he returned to the Souldan, and brought this Letter.

The

The Letter of *Baltazano* to the Souldan of *Babylon*.

Dread Lord, and moſt Honoured Uncle,

WHen the worthy Knight *Don Bellianis* left this place we were victorious, and no Enemies appeared againſt us, but ſuch as were incloſed in the City of *Phoarez*, which we alſo reckoned to be inconſiderable, in regard the Emperor their Lord was your Priſoner, and the King of *Georgia* was alſo taken, and no General left to head the Forces but the King of *Albania*, who was wounded, and the Knight of the *Tyger* in worſe condition then he; but no ſooner were part of your Forces withdrawn, but new Recruits came from further parts of the Country, and being led by a Virgin named *Floreza*, Siſter to the Emperor, the City was relieved; and notwithſtanding the frequent aſſaults that we have given them, yet we have not been able to carry it, ſo great is the courage of the Princeſs *Floreza*, that by her preſence and prudence ſhe kept all things in very good order, until the two Generals (the King of *Albania*, and the Knight of the *Tyger*) were recovered of their wounds; and then they had ſo great a reſpect for her, that ſhe ſtill continues Commander in chief: and to incourage her further, they have ſent to their Countries for more freſh Forces; and ſo great love and reſpect have all the Commonalty of the Country for the Princeſs *Floreza*, that they take up Arms generally in all places, and have muſtered in great numbers, ſo that we dayly expect, by the addition of theſe Forces, that ſhe will in ſhort time be able to take the Field: wherefore if your Majeſty intends to proſecute your Conqueſts here, I humbly conceive it will be neceſſary to raiſe more conſiderable Forces. In the mean time nothing ſhall be wanting to be done for your Majeſties ſervice, that is in the power of

Your Majeſties Subject and Kinſman,

BALTAZANO.

This Letter being read before the Souldan and his Council, it was preſently determined that an hundred thouſand men ſhould be immediately raiſed, and ſent away under the command of the Knight of Hope, who had given ſuch rare proofs of his valour; and that more Forces ſhould follow with all convenient ſpeed. Where-

upon

upon the Drums were beaten up, and those Forces which Don Bellianis brought back with him being recruited by the new levied Forces, they made up the number; and being all fitted with necessaries for the War, the Knight of Hope advanced; in his company marched Trion Knight of the Wolf, and the valiant Peter of Ireland, Contumeliano of Phœnicia, and Pliorisiano of Swevia. Don Clarineo, and Don Lucidamore, Brothers to Don Bellianis, likewise offered to go, but it was not permitted them at present so to do.

CHAP. II.

How *Alfiron* and *Persiana*, King and Queen of *Shyraz*, go home; and she is brought to bed of a Daughter, named *Belliana*. *Don Brianel* and *Aurora*, King and Queen of *Antioch*, likewise go home; and she is brought to bed of a Daughter, named *Aurora*. *Perianeo*, and *Don Gramalis*, had a Son and Daughter in the pleasant Island, by *Meridiana* and *Altea*, named *Gorgiana* and *Altea*, who are nursed by *Friston*. The Princess *Floreza* issues out of the City of *Pharez*, and fights a bloody Battle with *Balthazano*; who gets the honour of the day, but is deeply fallen in love with her.

These Forces being thus sent away under the command of the Knight of Hope, in short time after Alfiron and Persiana, King and Queen of Shyraz, desired leave of the Souldan, and Don Bellianis, to depart, and travel to their own Countries, promising to raise Forces there that should be ready to assist in the War; and at the same time Don Brianel and Aurora, King and Queen of Antioch, likewise departed, with promise to raise Forces that should be always ready to wait upon the commands of Don Bellianis: and it was not long after the arrival of these Personages at their own Courts, but that the two Queens were brought to bed of two lovely Daughters; that of Don Brianel and Aurora was named Aurora, like the Mother; and that of Alfiron and Persiana, was named Belliana, in honour of their great Friend Don Bellianis. And now we have given you an account of these proceedings of the Friends of Don Bellianis, we will also give you some account of

those of his Enemies: wherefore we having so long forgotten Perianeo, Son to the Souldan of Persia, and Gramalis of Thrace, we will return to give some account of them. If you turn back to the eleventh Chapter of the second Part of this History, you may find that these two valiant Knights were by the means of the said Friston conveyed into the pleasant Iland, where they spent their time in all manner of delights, in the company of the Princess Meridiana, daughter to the valiant King Gorgiana of Scotia, and the fair Lady Alce; and the Prince Perianeo had so much freedom and injoyment of the Princess Meridiana, that she, being with child by him, was brought to bed of a fair Son, whom they named Gorgiana, after the name of his Grand-father; and the Lady Alcea likewise had a Daughter by Gramalis of Thrace, which they named Alce, like the Mother: and as this Son of Perianeo proved to be one of the best Knights of his time, so this young Lady Alcea was the only Paragon for Beauty throughout the whole Universe. These young Children were no sooner born, but they were taken from their Parents by the sage Friston, who promised that he would take care of their education, and at all times be answerable for them to their Parents; and in this condition we will again leave them for the present, and return to the Knight of Hope, who was on his journey to the City of Pharez, having the command of an hundred thousand men, and being accompanied by several valiant Princes his Companions. He being commanded to make all expedition in his march, did not stop to make any addition to his Forces, but proceed so fast as he could; but he was not arrived there so soon, but fresh supplies had been sent into the City, which had so recruited the Forces of the Princess Floreza, that she, being ambitious of glory, and scorning to be inclosed within a City, valiantly came out, and took the Field. The Prince Balrazano seeing her resolution by her action, disincamped himself, and went resolutely to encounter her. This brave Virago perceiving what he intended, sent a Herald to him to let him know, that if he would stay until the next mornings Sun, she would save him the labor of coming to her, and meet him half way; but if he were resolved to do otherwise, and assault her presently, she would be ready to receive him. He hearing her generous resolution, was resolved to grant her desires, and wait till the next day;

day; and therefore sending her such word, he again re-entred his Camp. Although this Princess had several times sent out small parties, that had assaulted him in his Trenches, and headed several parties in the City when he had assaulted it, yet he had not yet seen her; but report rendred her a brave Person, and as compleat in the outward lineaments of her body, as she had shewn her self in the braveness of her mind; and therefore the Prince Balcazano was desirous to oblige her, and resolved, if possible, to see and encounter with her in the next days Battle: wherefore that he might be ready the next morning, he kept strict guards all that night; and the time appointed being coming, he again left his Camp: but as forward as he was, the Princess was as ready as he; for she had likewise quitted the place where she had incamped that night, and was advanced towards him. She had divided her Forces in three Battalias; one, which was the Van, she led her self, and under her command were forty thousand men; the second, which was the Body of the Army, was commanded by the King of Albania, and he had under him sixty thousand men; and the Rear was led by the Lieutenant General of the King of Georgia, who was a very valiant Knight, and known by the name of the Knight of the Lions, who also had forty thousand men: and the like number of forty thousand men was left in the City, under the conduct of the valiant Knight of the Tyger. Thus was she accompanied, but her Armor and Accoutrements were extraordinary; for she rode on an excellent Horse, who was covered with white Armor; and her own was green enamelled with Gold, richly set out with precious Stones; she had a Lance in her hand, and a good Sword by her side, which hung there by a green Scarf with Gold fringe.

The Prince of Numidia was not one jot behind her in magnificence; for he was armed in a Silver Armor, which shone so bright, that it dazled the eyes of the beholders. The Forces which he led were somewhat less then hers, but they were modelized in the same manner, being divided into three Squadrons, led by three trusty and valiant Knights; he himself took no particular command, as thinking it to be more convenient to be free, that he might be every where, as occasion served; only he had taken a thousand valiant Knights to attend him as his Guard; and he also had left twenty thousand men in his Camp, to guard that,

and to be as a reserve to the rest of his Army, as occasion should require. In this order, and thus prepared, did these two valiant Generals march at the head of their Armies, and, slowly advancing before their Forces, at length met. The first that encountred were the two Generals, the brave Numidian, and the gallant Floreza; who putting the Lance to her Rest failed not to encounter him, and that with such violence, hitting him on the Shield which he held out to receive her, that he was so shaken with the blow, that he was forced to catch hold of his Horses neck, to keep him from falling. He had never met with the like force in any man before, wherefore he was mightily astonished; but he being resolved before hand what to do, did not put his Lance in his Rest, but carried it so, that it flew over her head without encountring her. She soon saw the reason of his missing her, and, being angry at his generosity, turned back her Horse, and cried out, Sir Knight, although you so much contemn the forces of a Woman, yet, I hope, before I leave the Field, to make you sensible of my valour; and if you will turn back, let us again encounter. He stayed not to return her an answer; but, being followed by his Troop of one thousand Men, passed on to the Body of her Army, and then he shewed, by the mightiness of his blows, that he was not guilty of any cowardise; for he had killed, or dismounted, Sir, before his Lance brake; and then, drawing his Sword, he at six blows sent as many more into the other World: and being angry at the blow the Princess had given him, he was resolved to revenge it on her Followers. By this time he was passed the first Battle, and was come to the second, which was commanded by the King of Albania, and him he met to his dammage; for although he was a very valiant Knight, yet he gave him a wound over the arm, and the Sword falling heavily on the Horses neck, cut off his head, so that he was dismounted: but he was soon rescued by his Followers. And now our Numidian Prince thought it was time to wheel about, and see how his Army was entertained by their Enemies; and indeed full time it was for him to do so; for he found the Fore-front of his Army in very great disorder, by the valiant exploits of the unmatchable Floreza, who had so laid about her, that she had kill'd, or dismounted, above twenty, with her own hand, and had thereby made such way for her Followers, that that whole Squadron was almost put to the rout. The

Prince

Prince of Numidia ſeing this, fled to the Rear of them, and there cauſed them to face about, and in ſhort time, by this ſtratagem, he had brought all thoſe who were flying in the Van, to be in the Rear; and thoſe in the Rear, who had not known of the diſaſter, were now in the Van: and he did then, in the head of theſe Forces, ſo lay about him, that he ſtopt his Enemies, and gave his own Men the time and conveniency to rally. By this means his Forces were in as good condition almoſt, as they had been in the beginning of the Battle; which the Princeſs Florezia ſeing, was reſolved again to aſſault him; wherefore commanding that an hundred of her beſt Knights ſhould keep near her, and by all means keep the Numidian from paſſing from her, ſhe ſet forwards; and being come within hearing of him, ſhe cried out, Now, Sir Knight, ſince you would not make uſe of your Lance againſt me, let me ſee what you can do with your Sword; for aſſure your ſelf, that I will do my utmoſt endeavor againſt you with mine; and I hope to make you know, that I have an arm as capable and ſtrong to wield a Sword, as it was to manage a Lance againſt you. He heard her well enough, but was intended to leave her, as he had done the time before; but he was hindred by thoſe who attended her, and thereby ſhe had the means to come up to him: when ſhe was within reach of him, ſhe again commanded him to defend himſelf; and advancing her Sword in the air, ſhe let it fall on his Shield with ſuch violence, that it forced him to bend his body; and ſhe again redoubled her blow in ſuch manner, that ſhe wounded him on the ſhoulder: the ſmart of the wound made him alter his reſolution; and ſeing it was impoſſible to get from her without blows, was reſolved to give her one, and ſo be gone; whereupon he raiſed his Sword, and intending to hit her croſs the top of her Helmet, to aſtonish her a little, his blow fell with ſuch force, that the buckles of her Helmet breaking, that fell off from her head, and thereby ſhe diſcovered the loveliest, but withall the moſt maieſtick face that Nature ever produced; all her long golden locks flew about her ſhoulders, and the colour of her face was ſo rubified with the heat of the fight, and the anger to be thus uſed, that it was much like that of Roſes; and indeed throughout all ſhe ſeemed to preſent thoſe two Goddeſſes, Venus, and Bellona, the one in the face, and the other in all the other parts of her body. The Numidian Prince was ſo ſurprized with this unexpected, but moſt pleaſant ſight, that he ſtood with his Sword in his hand like a dead ſtatue; but ſhe ſoon put life in him again; for now her anger being raiſed to the higheſt pitch,

the

she likewise raised her Sword, and saluted him with a powerful blow on the Helmet; which although it for the present blinded his eyes, yet his understanding was clear, and he refused to take the advantage he had against her, of assaulting her unarmed as she was; but resolving to be gone, he was likewise resolved to have some benefit of the combat; for he seizing her in his arms, catcht hold of that fair green Scarf that held her Swords-scabbard, and lifting it over her head, turned his Horse, and in despight of all the resistance her Knights could make, he made his way through them, and so returned to his Army. During the time of this combat all the Forces of both Armies had the leisure to engage themselves, and that with indifferent fortunes; for as he possessed his Souldiers with a courage, so did she those under her command: and those Chiefs that they had appointed on both sides over their several Squadrons, being Persons of great conduct and valour, had worthily discharged their places. But the Army of the Prince of Numidia having been always used to conquer, were resolved to do so now too; and therefore they laid about them so valiantly, that their Enemies were forced to withdraw. The Princess Florezia seeing this, and being enraged as well at the misfortune of her self, as that of her Army, she sent away immediately to the City, to command those Forces there, under the conduct of the Knight of the Tyger, to advance; and in the mean time she used all possible diligence to rally her scattered Forces: she did so, and had put them again in the best order that time and place would permit. When she saw her fresh Forces issue out of the City, as this caused an universal joy to her and her People, so it was as much cause of sorrow to the valiant Numidian; who by this understood that the fight would be very bloody, and that he must be forced to fight it out to the last man: he was sorry to find it so, but being resolved to do all things that might be done by a good General, he sent away to his Camp, to command those Forces that he had left there to quit the Camp, and advance towards the place of Battle; but not to make their approaches so near as to be discovered by either Army, but to stay in some near convenient place, and expect his Commands. His Orders were obeyed; but before they could arrive at him, the Enemy was advancing with the recruit of fresh Forces. He had in this time Marshalled his Army, and was ready to receive them, and so went on, and joyned Battle: he was still hovering at some small distance with a small party, and as he saw occasion, went and relieved those that stood in need of his assistance;

and

and that done, he again retired to the place from whence he came, where he made his observations; and in fine, by this his good and prudent management, he saw that his Army had received the first brunt of the onset of his Enemies Forces with valour enough, and had made a considerable resistance; and that his Enemies, having failed in their expectation, were now wearied, whilst his Men kept close to their ground; and seeing that there was no advantage on the Enemies part, he wheeled about, and went to those Forces he had ordered as a Reserve; when he came to them, he cried out, Come, Fellow-Souldiers, there is only your assistance wanting to put an end to this days work, and reap the advantage of Battle that hath been well fought; do but now shew your resolutions to continue what you have been, Conquerors, and we shall soon be so. They answered him with such a shout, as demonstrated their joy and willingness to follow him: wherefore he, being at the head of this Party, flew like lightning, and in an instant was up with his Enemies, who were mightily surprized with this assault. They bore it as courageously as they could; but these fresh Forces coming with fresh resolutions, to die or conquer, made their Enemies know, that they were led by one who was no Novice in the Art of War. The gallant Princess did all she could to hinder her Enemies from a Victory, which she saw they were resolved to have; but seeing it was in vain, she, like a prudent General, caused the retreat to be sounded. The Numidian Prince hearing of it, was resolved not to disoblige her further, but give her the satisfaction she desired: but although he, as well as she, had caused the retreat to be sounded, yet his Souldiers could not be easily brought off from the work they were ingaged in, in killing and vanquishing their Enemies. But now the night coming on, did that for them both which they were so desirous of, for it separated the two Armies; and the valiant Princess found her loss so considerable, that she thought it necessary to quit the Field to her Enemies, and enter the City, being the better place of security. She put this her resolution into execution, but not so well, but that she had a great loss by it; for several believing that now they should be again inclosed within the City walls, chose rather to flee away, or fall into their Enemies hands, and so they did: and also the Camp of the Numidian was much inriched by the

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plunder of the Field. Thus was the fortune of the Wars altered; and what this valiant Princess had been some moneths in gathering together, was in one day separated, or vanquished. The next day, upon a view of the Field, there were an hundred thousand Men slain on both sides; but it was supposed two thirds of them were of the Princesses party: but she, who began with less Forces then now she had, was not so much discouraged as to despair, but hoped for a better day; and in expectation thereof, was content with her present fortune. In order to the management of her Affairs, she sent out to raise Forces, not only in all the Dominions of her Brother, but she also sent to all her Allies, which were so many, and they so forward in her assistance, that she questioned not but, in short time, she should be in condition to take the Field again: till when she made several excursions; and notwithstanding all that the Prince of Numidia could do to hinder her, yet she several times got in some Recruits, with all necessary provision; and he indeed was so concerned for her ever since that fatal day whereon he disarmed her head, that he knew not what to think of it; but in the end he discovered that the little god Cupid had wounded him so deeply, that he must be conquered, and yield to those whom he had conquered. But the relation of that, and other transactions that happened upon that account, being many and various. I shall here conclude, referring the prosecution of them to a new Chapter.

CHAP.

CHAP. III.

How the Prince of *Numidia*, being enamoured of the Princeſs *Floreza*, ſends her a Letter to acquaint her therewith; which ſhe civilly anſwereth. She and the City of *Pharez* is relieved by the arrival of *Periſano*, Knight of the *Panther*, with ſixty thouſand men; and he is reinforced by the arrival of the Knight of *Hope*, and an hundred thouſand men. The Knight of the *Panther*, being her former Lover, now endeavors to gain her by fair or foul means. He promiſes to perform wonders; but attempting the Army of the Prince of *Numidia*, is beat back with loſs. The Princeſs *Floriſbella* is brought to bed of a Son, named *Meridian*, and a Daughter named *Clarinda*, who are threatned by a Prophecy. The arrival of the young Princeſſes, *Aurora* of *Antioch*, and *Belliana* of *Shyraz*, to be bred up with the two young Princes; who being brought out on a ſolemnity, are carried away by a ſtrange inchantment.

ALthough the Prince of Numidia had gained great advantage over the Princeſs Floreza in the precedent Battle, yet he could not much brag of his conqueſts, he himſelf being wounded by the eyes of Floreza, more deeply then ſhe had wounded him in the body; but the wound on his body was ſoner cured, then that he had received at his heart; for at an inſtant her beauty was ſo powerful, that it pierced his Armor, and gave him an incurable wound. He being ſenſible of his ill fortune, complained to the great god Mars, that he had permitted him, who was his abſolute Votary, to be overcome by that little god Cupid. But conſidering the all-powerful charms of Venus, who oftentimes inforced Mars himſelf to ſubmit to her, was reſolved to be content; and ſince he was wounded, to indeavor a remedy. There was none capable to cure him, but ſhe alone that wounded him, and he knew her to be his enemy; but however, believing her to be as generous, as ſhe was fair and couragious, he took pen, ink, and paper, and writ theſe lines to her.

The Letter of the Prince of *Numidia* to the Princeſs of *Trebizond*.

Madam,

ALthough fortune declared her ſelf to be ſomewhat on our ſide, by giving us ſomewhat the better againſt you on the laſt day of Battle, yet you have made the greater Conqueſt; and indeed, how could it be otherwiſe, ſince you come ſo doubly armed, not only with Sword and Lance, but alſo with what is more powerful then either, and is indeed more conquering then all the weapons in the World, your Fair Eyes, whoſe rayes are ſo ſubtilly penetrating, that they pierce the choiceſt Armor? the truth of this I have experienced by the effects, and muſt confeſs my ſelf your Captive. Indeed we have the honour of keeping the Field which you quitted, and found ſome Trophies there which were conſiderable; but all to me is inconſiderable, in reſpect of that glorious Scarf which I obtained of you, and which I prize above all elſe I could have purchaſed. I hope, Madam, ſince I won it in the Field, you will give me leave to wear it as a glorious Trophy; and not to take it as other people may do, that I wear it in ſign of victory over you, when as all my ambition in having the honour of wearing it, is to ſignifie that I fight under your colours: although this may ſeem to be a paradox, yet aſſure your ſelf of the truth of it; and ſetting aſide the truſt I have of commanding the Forces of my Uncle, I ſhould come immediately and preſent my Perſon to be commanded by you. Madam, conſider my condition with you, and conſider my quality with my Uncle, and command me any thing which you think is generouſly fit to be done, and aſſure your ſelf you ſhall command

Baltazano of *Numidia*.

This Letter was conveyed to the Princeſs, who received it of the Meſſenger with much civility; and being told from whence it came, and expecting that there was ſome State matters in it, ſhe directed the Meſſenger to ſtay till the next morning, and then ſhe would return him an anſwer. He waited accordingly, and the morning being come, and he receiving a Letter, went preſently to his Tent, where, breaking open the ſeal, he found theſe lines.

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The Letter of the Princeſs *Floreza* to the Prince *Baltazano*.

Sir Knight,

YOur Letter hath very much ſurprized me; for I expected ſomewhat in it in order to the proſecution of the old War, and you propoſe a new one: it were neceſſary that the firſt were finiſhed, before any treaty of the ſecond; for how can I think you to be my Friend, when you are in arms in my own Country againſt our Subjects, and have already ſacrificed ſo many of their lives to your ambition of Empire? You may anſwer, that the War was begun by my Brother, and proſecuted by you as an Enemy to him: but I cannot take him to be my Friend, who is his Enemy. As for your generoſity in offering your ſervice to me, I thank you, and found you friendly, when in arms I took you for an Enemy. If you are obliged to ſerve, and be true to your Uncle, who hath intruſted you with his Army, I have a double obligation on the ſame account; for I am not only intruſted by the Emperor my Brother, but the love of, and my duty to my Country, requires my aſſiſtance of it in this extremity. As for thoſe Trophies you won in the Field, as I cannot hinder, ſo I ſhall not forbid your uſing them as you pleaſe. And as you deſire me to conſider your condition with your Uncle, ſo, I think, you ought to conſider of mine with my Brother, and my Country, to whom I am more obliged then you can be; otherwiſe, ſetting this aſide, it may be I ſhould be as generous as you. I confeſs, you might have proſecuted your Victory againſt us with ſomewhat more rigor; for you did ſpare, where you might have killed: but I hope, if the War continue, I may have the ſame advantage againſt you, when, you may expect, I will make the ſame uſe of it. This is all at preſent from her, who although ſhe is obliged to be your Enemy, yet ſhe will endeavor to anſwer your generoſity:

Floreza of *Trebizond*.

The Prince of Numidia was highly contented with this Letter, and had great hopes of a handſome proſecution in his love; which although it was not encouraged, yet he was not bid to deſpair. But as he was a Lover, ſo he was the General of an Army, and his care was to be employed in proſecuting the War: he had ſome inclinations to propoſe of a Peace to the Princeſs; but he

thought it would be better to wait till the arrival of those Forces, who he heard were approaching, under the command of the Knight of Hope, which in few days came up to the Army.

It was then supposed necessary to proceed, and lay a close siege to the City; but they were hindred from doing so, by the arrival of sixty thousand men, under the conduct of Perisano, Knight of the Panther, who was one of the principal of the Nobility of Trebizond, and withal was amorous of (though not beloved by) the Princess Florera. This Knight of the Panther was a proud ambitious Person; and had carried himself so arrogantly in the court-ship of the Princess, that she had wholly refused him: but he now, supposing he should either oblige her by fair means, in bringing this assistance to her in this extremity, or else be able to compel her by force; he therefore had raised these Forces, and now came to her assistance. Although she knew his pretensions, yet she took no notice of that; but welcomed him, and told him, that the Emperor, her Brother, would acknowledge this as a very remarkable service; and, that she would endeavor, that her Brother should, in due time, recompence him. He returned this answer, that he did not, nor could not expect any recompence from him, who was himself in prison, and whom he looked upon as one out of the World; but his reward he expected from her self, whom he acknowledged his only Sovereign; and the recompence he expected, she very well knew of: and in requital of it, he questioned not but to rid her, and that Empire, of all their Enemies; that they together might reap the fruits of such a Peace as he would assuredly give her. She, hearing his arrogant expressions, answered, that she should never think otherwise of her self then as a Subject, so long as her Brother was living; and therefore to be wholly disposed by him: but if he would joyn with her, in opposing their Enemies, she was ready to accept him. He replied, he was come for that purpose; but withal, that she knew his mind. This valiant and discreet Princess was very much troubled at the arrogancy of this vain-glorious Knight, but was resolved to dissemble her knowledge of his intentions, and, if possible, to gain the Chiefs of his Army to her dispose: but as yet, she thought it would be convenient to be silent, and see how the fortune of the War was likely to proceed; and therefore proposed to issue out of the

the City, and assault their Enemies in their Camp. The Knight of the Panther was very ready to entertain this proposition; and therefore told her, that he was provided to execute her commands when she pleased, and promised to do great matters on the day of Battel; but when the day came, and he and all his Forces were joyned with their Enemies, yet, although he was fierce and courageous enough, he found such warm entertainment in the Enemies Camp, that he was, in short time, forced to retire into the City, with the loss of ten thousand men of his party. He fearing that the War was likely to continue much longer then he expected, and believing that he should not by force gain his ends, was resolved to try what he could do by treachery; and to that end, he intended to take the same course with the Officers of the Princesses Army, as she intended to do with his, by gaining them to him. And the Prince Baltazano was full of uncertainties, what course to take in the prosecution of his love; for he had intelligence that the Knight of the Panther, who commanded the Forces that lately relieved the Princess, was also her Servant; but whether he was accepted, or countenanced by her, he knew not. Wherefore in these irresolutions we will at present leave him, before the City of Pharez, engaged both in Love and War, in both which he will be for some time engaged; and now we will return to Babylon, where we left the Souldan and his Empress, accompanied by their valiant Son in Law Don Bellianis, and their fair Daughter Florisbella; the two valiant Princes, Don Clarineo, and Don Lucidamore, and several other great and worthy Personages.

The Court of the Souldan of Babylon was never filled with more joy and tranquillity then on this occasion, especially when it was known, that the fair Princess Florisbella was with Child: this was very pleasing, not only to the whole Court, but to all the Subjects of this great Empire: and the time of her lying in being come, great and splendid provision was made to entertain the Princely Babe. But the joy of all was more then ordinary when she was brought to bed, not only of a brave Son, but he was accompanied by as lovely a Daughter: These two were wonderfull in their births; for, besides that the ordinary lineaments of their body were in the highest perfection, they had extraordinary marks;

marks: the Son had the perfect figure of three Crowns on his breast, lively represented; and the Daughter had as many Roses on her left arm. At the sight of these so remarkable marks, all the Court was full of discourse, what should be the meaning; for it was concluded by all, that they did admit of some extraordinary interpretation. Various were the opinions of all; and nothing being agreed upon, the Sages, and Wise Men of the Kingdom were sent to, who sent this answer.

A Prophesie.

IT shall not be many moneths before as great sorrow shall possess the Court of *Babylon*, as now it is filled with joy, and it is impossible to hinder it; the Fates having decreed, that the two Princes shall be lost, but not irrecoverably; and their second birth shall bring as much joy, as their loss had brought grief to their Parents. They are born to command as many Empires, and Kingdoms, as are represented on their bodies; and by them shall peace be given to the greatest Empires in the Universe.

This Prophesie was brought to the Court, and presented to the Souldan, and Don Bellianis, who seeing the contents of it would not be very pleasing, they therefore resolved to conceal it from the knowledge of all, trusting Fate to dispose of them, and hoping for the best. But withal, they made the stricter provision for the nursing of the two young Princes, who, with their Nurses, were placed in a Castle adjoyning to the Court, and a strict Guard set to watch it night and day. By the consent of all, the young Son was named Meridian, after the name of the Souldan his Grand-father; and the Princess was called Clarinda, it being the name of her Grand-mother, the Mother of Don Bellianis. These two admirable Princes being thus named, were delivered to certain Ladies, to be nursed by them in a Castle, and under a Guard, as we have already told you; and there they continued six moneths, without being visited by any but the Father, Mother, Grand-father, and Grand-mother, and such of the Court as they permitted to go with them; and in these six moneths they were grown so large, that it was admirable to all that saw them. The

Father

Father and Grand-father of these two Princes were very glad that six moneths were passed; hoping that they by taking the same care of keeping and guarding them, might hinder the effects of the threatning Prophesie. The Princess Florisbella was mightily well pleased with the thriving of her Children, but was dissatisfied at their being so strictly guarded; and had several times inquired of her Husband the cause why they could not be bred up in the Court with her. Don Bellianis still concealed the true cause of their confinements, and replied, that it was out of state; and that it would be better for the Children, while they were so young, to be bred privately then otherwise; promising, that so soon as one year was past, by which time they would be capable of knowing them, to permit them to be brought to, and bred up in the Court: and with this answer the Princess was forced to rest satisfied.

The news of the birth of these two brave Princes being spread abroad, was soon carried, not only to all parts of the Empire, but it also came to the hearing of Don Brianel and Aurora, King and Queen of Antioch; who, believing they should oblige Don Bellianis and his Princess, sent their Daughter Aurora to be bred up with them in the Court of Babylon: and, by their example, Alfiron and Persiana, King and Queen of Shyraz, also sent their Daughter Belliana; for whose arrival at Court, great joy was made. And now the Princess Florisbella was again desirous that her two Children might be brought to Court, to accompany these two Princesses. Don Bellianis promised her, that her desire should in short time be granted; but that he must first have the consent of her Father, the Souldan, before it could be done. The Princess hearing, and understanding, that if she could have her Fathers consent, her Husbands would be had; she therefore became a Suitor to her Father in that behalf: He answered her, as her Husband had done, that in short time she should have her desires fulfilled. But she was so importunate with both her Husband and Father, that she caused them to promise her that on a day prefixed, which was to come within one moneth more, the two Princes should be brought to Court.

She waited the coming of that day with some impatience; and when it was come, a great Feast was provided, and Triumphs

were

were intended to be solemnized in honour of the two Princes; and all the Court went in a kind of procession to the place where they were kept. They were brought out of the Castle by their Nurses, and placed in a Golden Chariot, drawn by two milk-white Palfreys. They were attended by several other Chariots, wherein were the most eminent of the Court; and guarded by those who had formerly been the Guard of the Castle. They being brought to Court, and dinner ended, they were in the same manner drawn in their Chariots to a place scaffolded, and railed in, where the Tournament was to be kept. All Persons here took their places according to their degrees and abilities; and the two young Princes were placed on a Scaffold where were none but themselves and their Nurses, and the two young Princesses, Aurora, and Bellians: and opposite to them was the Scaffold whereon sat the Soudan and his Wife, and Don Bellianis, and the Princess Florisbella, who was very joyful at the sight of her two Children; but her joy was converted into sadness within few hours after.

All People being placed on the Scaffolds, and the Combatants, who were to perform this days Triumph, being entred the Lists, they rode about, making their usual obeysances to these Princes, and so passed on to their several stations; where, at the noise of forty Trumpets, they began their carere, which was performed with much gallantry; and so indeed was all the action of the day, to the great content of all the Spectators. But a little before the approaching of the night, when the Combatants were separated, there were two Chariots seen in the Air, drawn by six Griffons a-piece; they came from several ways, for one came from the East, and the other from the West; and meeting in the Air, they began a furious Combat with each other, which continued for some time in the Air, to the admiration of all the beholders; but they in the end separated, and both wheeling about, alighted in the place where the Tilting had been performed: out of one of these Chariots lued a Giant, and in his hand two Lions, who went towards the Scaffold where the two young Princes, Meridian, and Clarinda, were seated; but before they could come thither, they were met and opposed by another Giant, and two fierce Leopards, who came out of the other Chariot; between these two

Giants

Giants began a fierce and cruel Combat; for they drawing their mighty broad Falchions, soon drew blood from one another: in the mean time the Beasts were not idle, for they assaulted each other with great violence; and in the end of a cruel Combat, which was begun, continued, and ended by these Giants, and Beasts, to the admiration of all the beholders, the Giant with the Lions was vanquished by the other; and a great peal of Thunder, and flash of Lightning happening, the Chariot out of which the vanquished Giant and Lions came was vanished, and so was the Giant and Lions; and the other Giant seeing himself Conqueror, taking his Leopards in his hand, went up to the Scaffold where the two young Princes were, and taking them into his arms, bore them away; and carrying them to the Chariot, he entred with them there, and the two Leopards, lying at the feet of the two Princes: immediately the Griffons flew up into the Air, drawing the Chariot after them: and thus were these two Princes born away, to the great grief and astonishment of the beholders.

CHAP. IV.

How *Don Bellianis* is comforted himself, and comforts his Wife, for the loss of his Children, by means of a Letter which he received from the sage *Bellona*, signifying her care of them. The Princes, *Don Clarineo*, and *Don Lucidamore*, in their return to *Greece*, meet with a Damsel, who was going to *Constantinople* to get relief against a Giant called *Espagan*, who had gotten into his custody the Princess *Leonarda*, and her Father, and Lover, the Prince *Arsileo*; they hearing this news, went with the Damsel to deliver them, which they performed by the death of the Giant.

GReat sorrow, confusion, and grief, did this Adventure cause to all the Court, but more especially to the Princess Florisbella, who fell from the Scaffold in a swoun, and was so bereaved of her senses, that she was put into a Chariot, and carried into her Lodgings in the Court, before she came to her self; and then her Nurses using all convenient remedies, brought her again

to her ſences: but ſhe then made the greateſt lamentations in the World. Neither was her Husband, Don Bellianis, leſs troubled then ſhe: but as he was taking Horſe, to return to the Court, a Dwarf preſented to him a Letter, and departed; he opening the paper, read theſe words.

The ſage *Bellona* to *Don Bellianis*, greeting.

KNow ye, that as it hath been the greateſt of my care and ſtudy, to preſerve the Honour of the Houſe of *Greece*, and much more particularly your own Perſon, ſo it is not unknown to you, how often I have given you teſtimonies of my care in that behalf; and although ſometimes, through malignity of the Heavens, and the great power and skill of my Adverſary, ſome misfortunes have befallen you, yet they were but for a ſeaſon; and the bad influence of ſome Planets being over, all your actions have again been proſperous enough. Even ſo will it happen in this late Adventure, which you may account a misfortune befallen your Children: but you may aſſure your ſelf, and the Princeſs *Florisbella*, from me, that all ſhall turn to the beſt; and that I will be anſwerable for the Perſons of your two Children, and be careful of their education; and in the place where I ſhall diſpoſe them, they ſhall be more ſafe, then either in the Court of *Babylon*, or the Caſtle where you had before placed them: therefore ſatisfie your ſelf for their abſence, and aſſure your ſelf, that the joy you ſhall take in recovering them again, ſhall make large amends for what ſorrow you have received in this their ſuppoſed loſs. This you may aſſure your ſelf from

Your conſtant Friend,

BELLONA.

Much ſatisfaction did the valorous Prince Don Bellianis receive at the reading of this Letter, knowing that whatever the ſage Bellona did undertake and promiſe, was true, and would turn to his advantage; and therefore he ſpurred on amain, and coming to the Chamber where the Princeſs Florisbella was in this lamentable condition, and accompanied by her Father and Mother, who made as great lamentations as ſhe, he told them, that they might

might cease their lamentations and complaints, for he had already received intelligence of his Children; and to satisfie them what, he drew out the Letter he had received, and read it unto them. At the reading of this Letter, and the discourse he made upon it, and the arguments he used to convince them of the truth of it, they, in the end, rested very well contented, and were resolved to be satisfied with their condition; which although they concluded it to be a misfortune, yet since the sage Bellona had promised, and undertook for them, they questioned not but in the end of all, things would happen as she had declared.

This unfortunate Adventure being ended, and all the Princes indifferently well satisfied, the Princess Florisbella, having lost her own Children, was mightily comforted by the presence of the two young Princesses, Aurora of Antioch, and Belliana of Shyraz, whose excellent beauties were the ornament and wonder of the whole World; and although their Parents (hearing of the loss of the two Princes) did send for their Daughters, yet the Princess Florisbella made such Apologies, and used so many Arguments to retain them, that, in the end, their Parents were content they should continue where they were.

And now the two valiant Princes, Don Clarineo of Spain, and Don Lucidamore of Thessaly, seeing their Brother so well bestowed in marriage, they desired leave of him to return to Constantinople, to attend their Father. He knowing that their desires were but reasonable, and that he was in duty bound to do the same, and his own Affairs (considering the present War with the Emperor of Trebizond not being ended) not permitting him to leave the Souldan at present; he therefore gave leave unto his two Brothers to depart with what conveniency they could, promising them to follow with all convenient speed; and sending Letters by them from himself, from the Souldan, and from his Princess Florisbella, to his Father and Mother, they departed, in company of several Grecian Knights who had accompanied them thither, and who now made up a considerable train.

They being thus accompanied, travelled through all those vast Countries that separate Babylon from Greece, without meeting with any considerable Adventure; and they were now entred upon the confines of their own Country, when, one morning early,

they were overtook by a Damsel, who seemed to be in great haste, and made pitious lamentation. These two worthy Princes, knowing that by the Order of Knighthood they were bound to assist all distressed Damsels, asked her the occasion of her haste. She answered, that she was with all speed journeying to Constantinople, to carry news thither that would not be very pleasant; and to see if she could get any remedy for a misfortune that was lately befallen. They told her, that their journey was thither also; and that they were so concerned with the Affairs of that place, that if she pleased to acquaint them with her business, they promised her their assistance. She seeing them such likely Knights, and so well accompanied, and hoping she might save her self the trouble of any further travel, answered them thus:

Know then, worthy Knights, that I belong unto a Princess named Leonarda, whose Father is a considerable Subject to the Emperor Don Bellaneo; and this Lady, being both fair and virtuous, was beloved and courted by several great Personages; but more particularly, by the virtuous Aristeo Prince of Hungary, and near Kinsman to the Emperor: he had long courted her, but the Emperor having occasion to travel in search of his Son Don Bellanis, took the Prince Aristeo with him: and in the time of his absence, among all others that courted my Mistress, Fustagon, the fierce and cruel Giant; pretended to be chief. The Lady Leonarda did never admit of any courtship from this fierce Lover; but he living in a Castle, near to that where she dwelt with her Father, and sometimes riding abroad, he would take some opportunities of seeing her, and tendring his love to her. She, who was resolved to have none but the Prince Aristeo, refused Fustagon, and all others; and notwithstanding his many Letters and Presents, wholly refused him. But he, being very amorous of her, was resolved to have her, either by fair means, or compulsion; and to that end he laid many plots, how to surprize her: but she, being kept with her Father, in his Castle, which was defended with many Knights of his retinue, he had not the opportunity of surprizing her by force, but at length he, waiting all opportunities, found one, to execute his villanous design. For news being brought that the Emperor Don Bellaneo, and the Prince Aristeo, with several others, were returned to Constantinople from Persia; the

Father

Father of the Princess Leonarda, out of dutiful respect to the Emperor, thought it necessary for him to go to Constantinople, and welcome him home: accordingly he, and most of his retinue, went thither; but no sooner was he set forwards on his journey to the Emperor's Court, but the wicked Fustigon, waiting his opportunity, gained possession of the Castle where Leonarda was; and first attempting her by fair means, and finding that ineffectual, he at length forced her to leave her own Castle, and go with him to his. I being one of her principal Damsels, attended her in that unpleasant journey; where, when we came, the poor Princess was made Prisoner, and, without any respect to her sex or condition, unkindly treated: and she refusing to accept him for a Husband, he told her, that then she must resolve to permit him to enjoy her, or else he would compel her by force. She gave him the best words she could at present, hoping for relief from her Father, and the Prince Artiled; who soon after had notice of her misfortune, and therefore both left the Court, and travelled thitherwards to relieve her. But this cunning Villain, Fustigon, suspecting some such matter, and believing that if he could get the Father, or Lover, into his power, that then he might accomplish his ends upon the Princess; he therefore put himself in the way that they were to come; and having a parcel of Knights, as wicked as himself, who had promised to assist him in his wicked designs: such was the misfortune of my Princess, that he met, fought with, vanquished, and took Prisoners both her Father and Lover; and having them in his possession, surely guarded, carried them to his Castle, and presented them to the Princess; telling her, that now, if she would not grant to his desires, and agree to marry him, he would cause them both to be murdered before her eyes. She was mightily perplexed at her great misfortune; and all that she could gain of this Monster was, to give her a months time to consider of this matter, promising then to give him a positive answer. And this she did, in hopes to be relieved by some of her Fathers Subjects; but they failing her, she made such shift, as she got me out of the Castle, commanding me to go with all speed to the Emperor's Court, to get assistance from thence.

And thus, continued this Damsel, have I given you a brief, but true account of my Princesses misfortunes, and the cause of

my

my hasty journey; and therefore if you are willing to assist me in this enterprize, make no delays, but face about, and I will conduct you to the place where all these unfortunate People are kept.

The two Princes, Don Clarineo, and Don Lucidamore, needed not many arguments to induce them to assist in so just a cause; not only the defence and assistance of all Ladies in general obliging them thereto, but that in particular, of a Lady their Fathers Subject, whom they very well knew; and their near and dear Kinsman, Don Arlieo, for whose assistance and deliverance they knew themselves very much obliged: and were very joyful, that, after so long an absence from their own Country, they might now, at their return, be instrumental in acting any thing that should be worthy of them; wherefore they soon faced about, and bidding the Damsel pat on, they and their whole Troop followed her. And now being upon their way, they inquired several things of her; as first, how far it was thither? To which she replied, not above one days journey. Then, how this Giant, Fustagon, was accompanied? and how they might get into his Castle? To this the Damsel replied, that he had two hundred Knights in his company within the Castle, and had twice that number in places not far distant; and that several wicked Knights did every day come in to him to his assistance, all which he entertained, fearing and expecting Forces from my Ladies Fathers Subjects, or from the Emperor, to come against them: and therefore he is so well provided with Knights within and without; and the Castle is so well fortified, that it will be a very difficult enterprize to gain it by force; wherefore it will be better, in my opinion, said she, for some to get in by policy, and so surprize it. The Damsels counsel was very well approved of; and they, now riding on, and coming within two miles of the place, again consulted what was to be done; and thereupon they resolved, to divide themselves into three Squadrons, which should all be that night, about midnight, within hearing of the sound of a Trumpet of the Castle, and then should attempt to enter; and that Don Clarineo, and five more valiant and resolved Knights, would get in as Friends to Fustagon, and so let in the rest, and perform their enterprize. This being thus resolved upon, Don Clarineo, and the five other Knights in his Company, marched on alone (leaving the Damsel to conduct

duct the reſt) and wheeling about, approached the Caſtle, as if coming from a ſtrange Country; and being eſpied by the Centries, they ſtill came nearer; and being come within hearing, the Centries demanded who they were? and what they would have? They replied, they were Friends, and came to ſpeak with their Lord Fuſtigon. When they had thus anſwered, they came nearer, and were come to the Caſtle Gate; and the Guard there ſeeing them ſo few in company, permitted them to enter; and they were preſently conducted to the preſence of Fuſtigon: When they came near him, Don Clarineo ſaluted him, telling him, that he belonged to a near Kinſman of his, named Barſtoon, who, deſiring to be kindly remembred to him, and underſtanding that he might have ſome occaſion for his aſſiſtance, had ſent them to wait on him for that purpoſe; and intended himſelf, with larger aſſiſtance, to come to him in few days. To this Fuſtigon anſwered, that they were very welcome; but he did believe, that he ſhould not have any occaſion to trouble his Kinſman; for he hoped that the Lady Leonarda would grant his deſires fairly, and then all would be well again: but, ſaid he, ſince you are come, I pray ſtay with me two or three days, and then, if my buſineſs be accompliſhed, I may ſend you back to my Kinſman, and acquaint him how things are. They were well enough ſatiſfied with this anſwer, and thereupon walked about with him in the Caſtle, he giving them an account of his affairs, and ſhewing them the ſtrength of the Caſtle; this was much to their purpoſe, and therefore they took good heed to all things; and ſo they were conducted to their lodgings, where they were diſarmed, and ſupped with Fuſtigon; who brought out the ſorrowful Lady, Leonarda, into their company, telling her, that his Kinſman, Barſtoon, had ſent him thoſe Knights for his aſſiſtance, and was coming with a great Train; ſo that he knew himſelf able to keep that by force, not only againſt all her Fathers Subjects, but alſo againſt all the Knights in the Emperor's Court: therefore, ſaid he, it will be diſcretion in you to grant that fairly, which will be ſo much to your prejudice to deny, and in the end muſt, in deſpight of you, be obtained; for, concluded he, I vow ſolemnly, if you do not grant my requeſt, and that within theſe four days, I will cauſe the heads of your Father and Lover to be ſmitten off before your

eyes,

eyes, and then force that from you which you cannot hinder. At the hearing of this sad sentence, the poor Lady answered him only by her tears, which she poured out plentifully before them. Supper-time being ended, and every one conducted to their lodgings, Don Clarineo went to his, and, being wholly unsuspected, his Companions went with him. And now all People, but the Centinels and Watch, being asleep, and our Knights being armed, issued out of their lodgings, and went to the Castle Gates, where they quickly slew some of the Centinels and Watch; but there was such a noise, that the whole Castle was alarm'd; whereupon one of the Knights went up to the Battlements of the Castle, and sounded a Trumpet; and Don Clarineo, and the other four, so laid about them, that they had killed most of the Guard; and possessing themselves of the keys had opened the Castle Gate, expecting their aid. The Giant, Fustigon, was not so soundly asleep, but that, at the noise he heard, he arose; and inquiring, what was the cause thereof: he was told, that the six Knights, who were entertained the day before from his Cousin Barstoon, had attempted to possess themselves of the Castle; that they had killed several of the Guards, and had possessed themselves of the keys. Fustigon, hearing this news, called presently for his Armor, doubting there was some treachery in the case; for he could not imagine, how six Knights alone should be so bold, as to attempt so hazardous and difficult an enterprize, without further assistance, which he supposed was at hand; and now he heard the sound of the Trumpet, he judged, that that was the token to be given; all this he knew, and was resolved to prevent: and therefore he, being armed and attended by a sufficient number of Knights, went to the Castle Gate, where he found our Knights were, and that they had opened it. He pressed forwards to secure it; but he was so well resisted by Don Clarineo, and his Companions, who had the conveniency of a narrow place, (so that their Enemies could not come to them behind) that they not only kept them off, but laid several of them dead at their feet. But Fustigon knowing of what consequence the possession of the Gate was, commanded all his Knights to press forwards, and so they did; and would certainly have forced our Knights to lose their station, if just at that instant one of their Squadrons had not

come

come in to their assistance: they seeing them approach, and knowing who they were, opened to the right and left, and permitted them to gallop in upon their enemies; which they did with so much violence and fury, that the Knights of the Castle being on foot, many of them were trodden down, and killed under their Horses feet. And now, they being entred the broad yard of the Castle, began a very valiant fight; for Fustagon seeing their number, and knowing his own in the Castle to exceed it, did not question but to vanquish and overcome his Enemies; wherefore he himself, at the head of his People, fought very valiantly; but he was soon of another mind; for it was not long after ere a second, and after that the third Squadron, entred the Castle, so that he believed it would be to no purpose to resist: however, he was resolved to do his utmost; and what he could not execute by force, to perform by policy; and therefore he retired, intending to secure himself of the Princess Leonarda, and if his Enemies would not desist, to cut off her head. With this resolution he left his Knights fighting, and went to her lodging; but not so cunningly, but that Don Clarineo, who had an eye upon him, and doubting some such desperate act, followed him: when he came to the Princesses Chamber, she was up in her night-gown, and seeing him come in all bloody, was mightily agast; but he soon taking her by the arm, led her to a large window which looked into the Court-yard, where the fight was maintained, and there he thus spake to her: Do you see, Minion, how much blood is shed on your occasion? if you have a mind to preserve your self, call to them, and that presently, and command them to leave the fight, and be gone, or else I will deliver you to them, but it shall be headless. She shrieked out at this discourse; which the Knights hearing, looked up, but knew not the meaning; only Don Clarineo, who was at the very heels of Fustagon, and heard his discourse, and doubted would do as he had said, took hold of the Lady by the other arm, and drew her from her Enemy, and presented himself in her stead, saying, Come, Monster, exercise you self on Knights that are armed, and not on poor defenceless Ladies. Fustagon seeing him, advanced his Sword, and gave him a mighty blow over the head; but he soon requited him with another, so puissant, that forced the Giant to kneel on the ground: but he recovering, they began a terrible fight, which ended with the death of the Giant.

CHAP. V.

How the Giant, *Fuſtagon*, being ſlain, and all the Princes being ready to leave the Caſtle, they were interrupted by the arrival of ſeveral parties belonging to him; who had like to have re-taken the Caſtle, but that they were relieved by the Knight of the *Stars*, and others in his company; and then, all the Giants Knights being vanquiſhed, the Caſtle was left to his care. The Princes travelled firſt to *Leonarda's* Fathers, and from thence to *Conſtantinople*, where they were welcomed, and the Prince *Arſileo* married to the Princeſs *Leonarda*. *Don Clarineo*, travelling in ſearch of *Magdalena*, Princeſs of *Sardinia*, meets and falls in love with the Princeſs *Florida* of *Sicilia*, her Couſin; who being acquainted with his true name and quality, under the promiſe of marriage, permits him to enjoy her. He departing on his voyage to *Ireland*, ſhe attends him, diſguiſed like a Page, named *Florello*.

JUſt as the Giant, Fuſtagon, fell breathleſs on the ground, Don Arſileo entered the Chamber where the combat had been fought; for he hearing a great noiſe in the Caſtle, and the Guards which were upon him leaving him to aſſiſt their Lord, he found the means to break open his Chamber-door; and deſcending into the Court, and ſeeing the fight, he miſſing Fuſtagon, and inquiring for him, heard he was gone towards the lodgings of the Princeſs; wherefore doubting ſome deſperate act, he ſeizing on a Sword, a Helmet, and Target, went thitherward, intending to aſſiſt and relieve the Princeſs, or elſe to loſe his own life in attempting it: with this reſolution he entred the Chamber, juſt as the Giant fell; and ſeeing Don Clarineo, his and his Ladies reliverer, he fell down on his knees to render thanks to him for that great ſervice he had done them; but he was ſoon taken up by Don Clarineo, who, pulling off his Helmet, diſcovered himſelf to his Kinſman; who ſoon knowing him, cried out, Oh, my good Lord! how much am I engaged to you for this great and immenſe favour? He would have proceeded in further diſcourſe of that nature, but that Don Clarineo interrupted him, and leaving him in the company of his Lady, went down to ſee how cauſes went there; but before he went, he cut off the head of the Giant, and placing it

on

on his Swords point, went amongst the Knights who were still fighting. He therefore beholding them, advanced his Sword, and cried out, What is the intent of this your wilful fighting, since behold here the Head of your greatest Enemy, which should put an end to this combat? All the Combatants beheld, and heard him: and the Giants Knights seeing the head of their Lord and Master, and withal finding themselves over-powred, threw down their weapons, and cried out for quarter; which was soon granted them. And the Castle being in all parts secured, the Giants Knights disarmed and imprisoned, the two valiant Princes, Don Clarineo, and Don Lucidemore, again went to the Princesses lodgings, where they found her not only accompanied by her Lover Don Arsileo, but also by her Father, who was come thither to her. At the entrance of the two Princes, they would all three have fallen on their knees, but they would not permit it; but, being disarmed, sate down by them: and the Damsel who had met the two Princes, now entred, and joyfully fell down at the feet of her Lady, embracing her knees; but she, understanding that she was by her means relieved, soon took her up, and embracing her, gave her many thanks for her so good service. In the end all Persons were very well pleased; and our wearied Princes having refreshed themselves with such viands as the Castle afforded, lay down to take some rest; during which time Don Arsileo took charge of the Castle: and considering how their condition was, and that although they had overcome all the Forces within the Castle, yet there were more without who might interrupt their quiet; he therefore, by the advice and consent of the Princess and her Father, dispatched away certain Knights (who were taken Prisoners with them, and now released) to the Country of his Princesses Father, to acquaint his Subjects of their Victory, and to command them to attend him there immediately, in the best manner they could. These Messengers being sent away, made such dispatch, that they soon arrived at the Castle of the Princess Leonarda's Father, where they found a young Knight, a Kinsman of hers, called the Knight of the Stars, that had gathered a considerable band of Souldiers together, with intent to relieve their Lord and Lady: and now hearing of the joyful news of their deliverance, and that they only wanted their assistance in conduct-

ing them home, they ſwn put themſelves in a readineſs to march thitherwards: and now many more, who before were fearful of the Giants power, knowing him dead, joyned themſelves to this Troop, ſo that their Forces were very conſiderable. And they being upon their way, we will leave them, and return to the Giants Caſtle; where the two Princes, and their Companions, and Knights, having refreſhed themſelves, and being now met together, to conſult what was neceſſary to be done, reſolved to leave the Caſtle, and journey towards the Princes: but they, knowing that the Giant had Forces in the way, thought convenient to attend till the Subjects of the Prince, who had been ſent to, ſhould come. But before their arrival there, a Squadron of the Giants Knights, who were quartered abroad, came to the Caſtle; but not being admitted entrance, much wondred at the cauſe, till at length they underſtood it; wherefore they ſent to, and acquainted the other Squadrons with the matter, deſiring them to come preſently to them, and they would attempt the re-taking of the Caſtle. At this ſummons all the other Forces came up, and being met together, and reſolving what to do, they knowing a private and unknown way into the Caſtle, ſeveral of the moſt couragious and adventurous of them entred a Vault which led into the Caſtle, the reſt ſtill ſtanding before the Caſtle Walls. Our valiant Princes ſtood upon the Battlements, expecting the aſſault; but they were mightily ſurprized and amazed, when they ſaw a great number of armed Knights were entred the Caſtle, and they knew not which way; at length they perceived that they iſſued out of a Vault, and therefore they went thither to ſtop it: but thoſe who were already entred hindred them, and ingaged in fight with the Princes, while more of their Companions entred. Thoſe who were without the Caſtle, ſeeing our Knights to quit the Walls, underſtood what was the occaſion of it, and that ſome of their Companions were entred the Caſtle, and had begun a fight which they intended to aſſiſt them in; and thereupon, they being provided with ſcaling Ladders, and other ſuch like warlike inſtruments, they mounted the Caſtle Walls; which our Knights ſeeing, were forced to divide themſelves, and run, part of them, thither to reſiſt them. Thus were they ingaged in two ſeveral places, and the fight became very bloody; and in the end would

have

have been very hazardous to our Princes, but that they perceived a great Troop, at some distance, marching up towards them, and it was not long ere they knew them to be their Friends; for they set upon the Assaylants so violently, that they caused them to leave the assault, and descend to assist their Companions; our Knights seeing this, now bent all their Forces against those who came up out of the Vault, whose numbers did not long increase, as they had done, because they staid in the Field, to help their Companions without the Castle; so that our Princes seeing that their enemies were but small, and not likely now to increase, they laid so lustily about them, that they put them into much confusion; for they did not understand the condition of their Companions without, and wondred that they had no more of their assistance. The Prince Arsileo, as being chiefly concerned, performed wonders, killing several Knights with his own hand: and the Prince Clarineo again advanced the head of the Giant Fustagon on a Spear, on the Walls of the Castle: at the sight of this, both Parties, as well those within as without, seeing the head of their Chief, whom they did not believe to be dead, were so dead-hearted, that they gave way to their Enemies, and, throwing down their weapons, fled. Those who were within the Castle were taken Prisoners, and disposed amongst their Companions; and the rest without were pursued, and most of them slain by the hands of the merciless Country-men. And thus was this Adventure fully finished, to the perfect joy of all the Princes; who setting open the Castle Gates, admitted the Knight of the Stars, and all his Company, to enter the Castle. And now it was concluded that all the Princes, and the Princess Leonarda, should leave that place, and travel to her Fathers Castle; and the custody of that Castle was given to the Knight of the Stars, and some of his Companions, who were left to keep it for the Princess Leonarda, to whom it was given by the Princes Don Clarineo, and Don Lucidamore, who promised so to undertake with the Emperor their Father, that she should have a grant of that, and all other Possessions of the Giant Fustagon. And thus having secured every thing in the Castle, by a sufficient power which they left, and taking a considerable Guard with them, they departed, and in short time arrived at the Castle of the Princess Leonardas Father;

Father; who made them very welcome, and promised to attend them to Constantinople, to the presence of the Emperor. Few days stayed this Company to refresh themselves, and then they set on: the Company consisted of the old Prince, and his Daughter, the two Princes, Don Clarineo, and Don Lucidamore, and Don Arsileo, and several good Knights in their Company: and during this journey, Don Arsileo enjoyed so much pleasure in the company of his beloved Lady, that he thought himself very well rewarded for all the pains he had taken, and the hazards he had undertwent for her; and to make his joyes the more compleat, not only she, but her Father also promised, that at his arrival at Constantinople, if the Emperor consented, he should be married to her. He having received this pleasing answer, desired his Cousins, Don Clarineo, and Don Lucidamore, to assist him with the Emperor for his consent: they promised to effect his desires. And thus did they travel till they came to that great and famous City of Constantinople, where, when they came, they were met by the noblest of the Citizens, without the City, and soon after by all the Court; and at the Court Gates, by the Emperor and Empress. Great was the joy, on all sides, for their so happy return; for the Emperor had heard of all the Adventures at the Castle of Fustagon, and had intended to send them relief, but that he heard all was very well accomplished. The Empress was joyfull at the sight of her Children; and after she had embraced them, she kindly received the Princess Leonarda, and her Cousin Arsileo; and she and the Emperor, understanding the love that was between them, consented to their marriage; and sent unto Hungary, to the King his Father, to acquaint him therewith. But the Emperor not questioning his consent, in regard the Lady was not only fair, but discreet and virtuous, and the addition of Fustagon's Dominions, to those of her Fathers, being added, would make her a considerable Fortune; wherefore the Wedding was agreed to be solemnized within ten days after: against which time, and as well in honour of the Wedding, as for joy of the safe return of the two Princes, Don Clarineo, and Don Lucidamore, great provision was made for several Triumphs to be then had and kept, not only in the Court, but also in the City.

The

The long wished for Wedding-day being come, great joy it was to all; but more particularly to the Prince Arsileo, and the fair Princess Leonarda, whose joyes were now compleated, and he reaped all the happiness he was capable of in the Company of so lovely, and beloved a Bride. But although the joy was universal, and the triumphs many and delightful, yet they had an end; and now our Princes had time to rest at home, for the pains they had taken abroad. But so great was the pleasure that these valiant Knights took in seeking Adventures, that it not long ere Don Clarineo, remembring the promise he had formerly made to his Friend Peter of Iceland, Knight of the Key, to make search after his lost Lady Magdalena, Princess of Sardinia, he was therefore resolved to make a diligent search and inquiry after her; and to that end, pretending to take a short voyage about the Islands of the Mediterranean Sea, he armed and equipped a Vessel for that purpose; and being only accompanied by a Dwarf, who usually attended him, he embarqued. He caused the Master of the Ship to put in at several Islands, where he went on shore, to inquire and seek after the Princess Magdalena, or to find out some other Adventure; but he, meeting with nothing that was considerable, resolved to sail to Sardinia, and inquire what news was there to be heard of her. He, being landed at the Port, rode up into the Country, and his ears were soon saluted with the pleasant noise of a Horn, and the cry of a pack of Hounds, that were in pursuit of a goodly Stag; he saw the Beast, and soon after the Company, which was large and gallant; for, upon inquiry, he understood, that there was the King and Queen, and most of the Court, and one Lady, who was more remarkable than the rest, who was called Florida, and was Princess of Sicilia. This Lady was not only beautiful, but also of a brave, gallant, and generous aspect, and so used to ride on hunting, that she sate upon her Horse in a very becoming posture. Don Clarineo was mightily taken with this Lady, and therefore rode up to her, and kept near her all the time of the hunting; and she seeing him so gallant a Personage, was as curious in beholding him. The hunting being ended, by the death of the Stag, and the King, Queen, and Princess, being about to return to the Court, our Knight turned about to leave their company: the Princess seeing that, cried out, Nay,

Sir

Sir Knight, be not ſo diſcourteous to leave us; but as you have taken pains in hunting, ſo go with us, and participate of the prey. He, ſeeing he had an invitation, came up to her, and making his due reverence to the King and Queen, and then addreſſing himſelf to her, replied, That it was enough for him to have the honour of her company abroad, and not to preſume any further. The King replied, That he ſhould be welcome; his Court being always ready to receive and entertain Perſons of his quality. Our Knight would not now be ſo diſcourteous as to leave them, but attending them to the Court was diſarmed; and then he appeared to be one of the moſt perſonable and lovely Perſonages of that age; and now, if the Princeſs Florida had any eſteem for him when in Armor, it was then very much increaſed: and indeed ſhe did ſo look upon him, that the little god Cupid wounded her; and from her fair and ſparkling eyes ſhot back darts that wounded the very heart of the Prince Clarineo. He very well underſtood her quality to be Princely, and therefore ſuitable to his own, and thereupon reſolved to love her: and the only obſtacle that aroſe in her breſt, why ſhe did not make the ſame reſolve, of loving him, was, becauſe ſhe was ignorant of his. But ſhe, being deſirous to know it, commanded a Damſel, who attended her, to inquire it of his Dwarf. But eating-time being come, he was invited by the King to ſit down with them; to which he conſented. The King alſo deſired to know his Quality: but he, being reſolved to conceal that, replied, That he was a Grecian Knight, of little fame, known by the name of the Knight of Cupid (he having the reſemblance of that blind god on his Shield.) At this anſwer the King was content; but ſo was not the Princeſs Florida, who earneſtly deſired to know his Quality; and therefore, that evening, ſhe employed her Damſel; who although ſhe inquired of the Dwarf, yet ſhe loſt her labor: for he gave her no other anſwer, then his Lord had already given the King. Don Clarineo chanced to come by, where he ſaw the Damſel with his Dwarf; wherefore knowing her to belong to the Princeſs, he had ſome hopes of his ſuit; he believing that he might gather ſomewhat from the Servant of the mind of her Miſtreſs, took her by the hand, and asking, if ſhe pleaſed to command any thing of him? ſhe replied, No. Whereupon he asked his Dwarf, Whether ſhe had deſired

any

any thing of him: He, not daring to conceal any thing from his Lord and Master, presently acquainted him with the desires of the Damsel. Our Knight hearing this, told the Damsel, that his Dwarf, indeed, knew no more of him then he had said; but if her Lady desired any further knowledge of him, if she pleased to admit him to a private conference, he would satisfie her in all she pleased, and be ready to obey her in all her commands. The Damsel, making an obeysance, left him, and went to her Lady; to whom she recounted the substance of her message, and withal added, that the Knight of Cupid was a very courteous Knight. The Princess spent that night, and the next day, in consulting with her self, what to do; and at last resolved, to give him a meeting in the Garden that evening: and therefore commanded her Damsel to acquaint him, or the Dwarf, with her intentions. Our Knight, in the mean time, had made all diligent inquiry about the Princess Magdalena, but could not hear any news of her since she left the Court with the Knight of the Keys: and although the King, being much grieved for the loss of his Daughter, had made all diligent search throughout all the adjoyning Countries, yet he could never hear any news of her, or of the Knight. After he had made his inquiry, and was passing through the Garden, he was met by the Princess of Sicilia's Damsel; who seeing him gave him the opportunity of saluting her. He soon inquired of her Ladies health; and, whether she was still desirous of knowing any thing of him: She replied, that, indeed, her Lady was desirous of a further acquaintance with him; and that, for her own part, she should be very willing to assist and contribute all she could thereunto. He kindly thanking her, replied, that he should be very thankful to her for any thing she should act for him, and should endeavor to recompense her kindness; and withall, as an earnest of his good will to her, he pulling a Diamond Ring from his finger gave it unto her. She kindly accepted of his Present, and told him, in requital, that if he would please to meet her there that evening, about eleven of the Clock, she would come; and she hoped so to order the matter, that her Lady should come with her. He, being glad of this proposition, was very thankful; and, begging her to perform her promise, he promised not to fail on his part. She, having now very well discharged her

meſſage, returned to her Lady, whom ſhe acquainted with all paſſages: and ſhe thanked her for her diſcreet management, promiſing her a reward: but when ſhe looked on that Ring which the Prince had given the Damſel, ſhe, conſidering the richneſs of it, concluded, that he muſt be a Princely Perſon that could give ſo coſtly a Jewel on ſo ſmall an account; and from thence concluded a good omen to her affairs.

The time appointed being come, our two Lovers failed not to be at the place appointed, he alone, and ſhe attended with her Damſel. The Prince, ſeeing her approach, ſtept forwards; and, falling on his knee, kiſſed her hand; and thus began: Madam, how great a favour you have done to me, I am not unſenſible of; and I ſhall for the future endeavor, by my utmoſt ſervice for you, to acknowledge, although I ſhall never be able to requite the kindneſs you do me at this preſent: Therefore, I beſeech you, Madam, if you have any particular ſervice to employ me in, do but command, and I ſhall readily obey you. She, hearing him make a ſtop, replied, Sir Knight, I am not ignorant of my duty to thoſe of your quality; and that I ought to be courteous to all ſtrange Knights, but more eſpecially to ſuch as reſemble you, and are ſo obliging as you ſeem to be: but before I can make payment of one debt, which I owe you for your courteſie, I am deſirous to be indebted to you for another, which I hope you will not refuſe me. Madam, replied he, there is nothing within the compaſs of my power, but I ſhall readily obey you in; therefore, I pray ſpeak, and I ſhall obey you. Then, Sir, ſaid ſhe, I pray, think it not ſtrange, if I deſire to know of you the preſent occaſion of your travels; and withal, to acquaint me with your true quality and condition. Madam, ſaid he, there is nothing elſe that I had a deſire to conceal from you, only theſe two things; but ſince you have my promiſe to ſatisfie you, I ſhall do it, and that freely and ſincerely, although I ſhould run a very great hazard thereby: Therefore, Madam, as to your firſt requeſt, I am a Friend unto a Knight, who was ſometime ſince well known in this Court, by the name of the Knight of the *Keys*, who ſo far gained the good will of the Princeſs *Magdalena*, that ſhe, leaving her Parents, went with him towards his Country of *Ireland*: but ſo great was their misfortune, that he never arrived there ſince; but by misfortune loſing her, he travels about the World in ſearch of her: and I, being his particular Friend, according to a former

former promiſe to him, have ſearched ſeveral Countries for her, but hitherto in vain; wherefore, hoping to hear of her in her Father's Court, I am come hither for that purpoſe. And now, Madam, continued he, I have given you an anſwer to your firſt demand, what is the occaſion of my preſent travels; and I hope you will take it as an anſwer to the ſecond, becauſe I have told you, that I am a Friend to the Knight of the *Keys*. Truly, replied ſhe, you have given me full ſatisfaction to my firſt requeſt; and I am as well as you ſorry, that you cannot accompliſh your deſire in hearing news of my dear Couſin the Princeſs *Magdalena*, whoſe loſs hath ſenſibly grieved me; but I have ſome kind of hopes, that ſhe may be heard of, becauſe I did believe, ſhe and the Knight of the *Keys* did periſh together; but ſince he is alive and well, I have good hopes, that one day we ſhall find her ſo too. But, Sir, although you have given me great pleaſure and ſatisfaction in anſwering my firſt deſire, yet I ſhall not reſt there; but deſire you to anſwer my other more particularly, and I queſtion not, but I ſhall be as well, if not better, pleaſed with the knowledge of your true quality: wherefore, I pray, refuſe not to give me the ſatisfaction I expect. Our Knight, ſeeing the importunity of the Princeſs, and partly gueſſing at the reaſon of it, replied thus: Madam, ſince it muſt be ſo, I will be contented to obey you; provided you likewiſe promiſe me, not to declare your knowledge of me to the King, Queen, or any of the Court; but to carry your ſelf to me, as if you had not been acquainted with my quality. The Princeſs, being very earneſt to know this ſecret, promiſed all he deſired: whereupon he thus replied; Madam, although my many occaſions have, for the greateſt part of my life, kept me in remote Countries, yet, I ſuppoſe, you have heard of me by my name, when I ſhall tell you, that I am called *Clarineo* of *Spain*, and am Son unto the Emperor Don *Bellaneo* of *Greece*. Oh, my Lord! (replied the Princeſs) how will you pardon the diſreſpect I have had of you? and thereupon would have thrown her ſelf on her knees, and have kiſſed his hand; but he, ſeeing her intent, held her in his arms, kindly ſaluting her; and ſo they placed themſelves on a bench there adjoyning, where, when they were ſeated, the Prince thus began: Madam, I hope the knowledge of my name and quality will not prejudice me in your opinion; for I had rather be the meaneſt Knight in the World, and be eſteemed by you, then be Maſter of the greateſt Empire, and not

in your favor. Ah, my Lord (replied she) if I had a great esteem for you, which I cannot but acknowledge, before I knew your quality, it is now much more increased, since I better know you; but, I doubt, the knowledge hereof will be to my disadvantage, there being so great a distance in my quality from yours. Further she would have proceeded in her discourse, but doubting she had discovered too much already, she held her peace; and he, not being ignorant in the affairs of Love, seeing what condition she was in, made her no answer, but what she received by careless, and strict embraces, which he gave her.

Although they spake again, it was but to discover that to one another which they well enough knew already; which was, their love to one another; and that they discovered more with their eyes, then their tongues were able to express. But he, knowing it was convenient and necessary, promised her a lasting love: and she confessed that hers was very violent ever since she first saw him. And now, my Lord, (said she) I have made this confession to you, what use will you make of it? will you leave me? or how will you dispose of me? or order me how I shall dispose of my self. To this so passionate discourse, he replied, That she might command him what she pleased, for he would be wholly directed by her: but (continued he) if it might stand with your good-liking, I would prosecute my intended voyage, in search of the Princess *Magdalena*; and upon the first knowledge of her, or my return home, which shall first happen, I will certainly visit you, either here, or in your Father's Court, and desire you in marriage. She thanked him for this loving promise; but withal she replied, That although he was very desirous to hear news of her Kinswoman *Magdalena*, yet there was so much hazard and danger in travelling to unknown Countries, that she could hardly give her consent to it. He replied, That he would make all possible haste of his return, and then inviolably keep his word with her. She, hearing his resolution, did not absolutely contradict him, but then desired to know, when he intended to depart? He replied, in four days. She was unwilling he should be gone so suddenly. And thus did they spend some hours together in an Arbor in the Garden, and the Damsel still walking at some distance to spy if any should chance to come to disturb them; but she, in the end, being weary of this employment, came to them,

and

and told them, that it would be more convenient for her, and them both, to leave the cold Garden, and enter the Chamber; for, said she, I see that you are so well agreed here, that there is no danger of your falling out there. The Prince hearing her proposition, was very well pleased therewith; and desired the Lady, to let it be as her Damsel had directed. She answered, and consented, by her silence; and so they went on. Being entred the Chamber, they sate down on the side of the bed, and there they renewed their protestations of an inviolable love, which should last till death. And now, having said all that could be on that occasion, the Prince was desirous to proceed further with her; the opportunity of the time, place, and her great and ardent affection to him, perswaded him, that she would not refuse him; wherefore he again began with kissing and embracing her, and used all those amorous actions, that might induce her to be kind to him; so that in the end she meltingly fell into his arms, and, as being wholly overcome by him, she permitted him to take his full content and pleasure with her. The Damsel was not far off, but had retired into an adjoyning Chamber, where she lay till she thought this love-passion was over, and then she came out to them, telling them, that it was time for them to part, and him to be gone, for the day then approached, and it would be dangerous for him to stay there any longer. She understanding that the Damsel said true, and doubting the worst again, confirmed the Prince to constancy, and had a further promise of marriage, which he protested should be at the furthest when he had ended the search of the Princess Magdalena; and thereupon he gave her a Ring, before the Damsel, as a pledge of his faith, and as a token of the promise he made her; and then, sending out the Damsel to see if any body were in the Garden, he took a solemn farewel of her; and the Damsel returning, and telling him that the coast was clear, he left his Lady, and departed to his Lodging. And now our Lovers had proceeded thus far, they were more inamored of each other then they had been; and during the time of his stay, he spent all the nights with her: and the fatal day being come of their separation, they both seemed to be very much disturbed; but she, being resolved to put a project she had in her head into execution, was the better satisfied, and made provision accordingly.

He

He again promised to obey her in all things, and not to fail in any thing he had promised her; and now the very hour of his departure being come, and that he had taken his leave of the King and Queen, and also of her, telling her, that he should within one hour set sail; and so he left her. She, in prosecution of her intention, having put all things into readiness before, discoloured her Face, and made that somewhat brown that was before very fair and clear; and putting her self into a Suit and Coat, habited like a Page, and turning up her own Hair, which was as yellow as the Gold, or rather as radiant as the Sun-beams, she put on a Periwig of another colour, and so disguised her self, that she was hardly knowable to her self; and putting a parcel of rich Jewels, and some Coin, into her pocket, and a Letter, which she had written, into her hands, she went to the Sea-side, where she had not waited long before he came. She had so perfect a confidence, that he did not at all distrust her; but she, coming up to him, delivered a Letter to him; which he opening, read these words.

The Letter of the Princess *Florida*, to the Prince *Clarineo*.

Sir,

AS a trial of your Love, and an effect of your Promise to obey me in all things, I make bold to request this of you, to entertain this *Donzel* into your Service; I dare warrant his Fidelity. And although you are supplied with a faithful Servant already, yet, I pray, accept of this from me, who hath commission from me, only sometimes to put you in mind of

Your faithful and constant Friend,

FLORIDA.

Don Clarineo, having read the Letter, loked stedfastly on the Messenger, and she as firmly upon him; but he made no discovery: but thus he said, Most amiable Youth, how welcome you are to me, my usage of you shall testifie; and you shall always find that in me, as

if

if my beloved Princeſs were preſent. Good Sir, (replied the diſguiſed Lady) your only acceptance of me into your Service is all I deſire; and if I can ſerve you in any thing, aſſure your ſelf of my Fidelity to my utmoſt ability.

This diſcourſe being ended, he preſently went aboard, and carried his Page Florello with him, for ſo had ſhe named her ſelf; and the wind ſerving, they hoyſed up ſails, and departed. When night came, the Prince not only cauſed his Page to lie in the Cabin, but alſo in the ſame bed with him: he was very unwilling at the firſt, but it being the Princes abſolute command, he obeyed. But although they lay together all the term of the voyage, yet did not the Prince ſuſpect his ſex and quality; but he paſſed with him, and all others in the Ship, for a Boy. And thus did they travel up and down all thoſe Seas, and ſearched ſeveral Iſlands, but to no purpoſe, till at length to Ireland they came, as ſhall be declared in the next Chapter.

CHAP. VI.

How the Knight of *Cupid* travelled into *England*, went to the famous City of *London*, and from thence to *Windſor*, where a Combat was to be fought; for that a Counteſs was accuſed of Adultery by one of her Damſels, who was hired thereunto by the Counteſſes Brother in Law. The King ordering that the Damſel ſhould provide a Champion to fight on her behalf, ſhe had a fierce Giant; and the Counteſs being unprovided of a Champion, the Knight of *Cupid* undertook the Combat on her behalf: he fights with, and kills the Giant; and thereupon the Damſel, confeſſing the accuſation to be falſe, is burnt; and the Counteſſes Brother in Law is baniſhed. How the Knight of *Cupid* had in vain ſought for the Princeſs *Magdalena* in *England*, and, taking ſhipping at *Weſtcheſter*, travelled into *Ireland*.

THus did the Prince Clarineo travel from one Country to another, in ſearching for the Princeſs Magdalena, wiſhing by all means to find her, that he might return to his beloved Princeſs Florida; who although ſhe was very near him, yet he was

was ignorant thereof: but it was great joy and comfort for them both, in regard she did always see him, and converse with him, and their discourse being, for the most part, about her. And now, our Prince having sailed to the western parts of the World, he arrived at England, and there he landed, resolving to visit most of the considerable parts of that Kingdom; and therefore he caused three Horses to be disimbarqued, for himself, his Squire, Florello, and his Dwarf; and ordering his Vessel to sail about most part of the Island, and meet him at Westchester, which is the nearest Seaport Town in England to Ireland, whither he also intended to travel, and see if in the Country of his Friend, Peter of Ireland, he might hear any news of the Princess Magdalena. He and his Attendants being thus mounted on horse-back, they rode on towards the great and famous City of London, where the King of that Country kept his Court; being come thither, the King, and all the Court, were just then removing to the antient Castle of Windsor, for the trial of a Cause that was there within few days to be ended by Combat; the occasion of which Combat was this:

A Countess of that Kingdom having three Children by her Husband, he died, leaving her a Widow; and she seized upon the Estate for the use of her Children, they being as yet but young: The Earl, her Husband, had a Brother, who was very desirous of having the Children in his keeping, because he might, under that pretence, receive the Rent of his Brother's Lands; but to this the Countess would in no wise agree. Wherefore her Brother in Law was so angry, and being of a wicked and perverse nature, being ambitious of Honour, and covetous of the Estate of his Brother, he had contrived a way how to gain all the Estate to himself; wherefore he, by great presents in hand, and many fair promises of greater matters, drew into confederacy with him a Damsel, who had lived many years with his Sister in Law; and her he caused to give out, that the three Children of her Lady were not begotten by the Earl her Husband, but by another who kept her company; by this means proving her Lady to be an Adultress, and the Children Bastards. He seemed, at first, to be surprized at this strange discourse, which he himself had framed; but, as he said, his Brother's Honour being in question, he caused the wicked Damsel to be carried before the King; where

she

ſhe not only juſtified this report, but made oath of the ſame, whereupon the Counteſs was ſent for, but all the anſwer ſhe could give, was in the denial of the fact, with aſſeverations and tears. The King hearing the caſe, and intending, like a good Prince, to do juſtice, took this order; that, by a day prefixed, the Damſel ſhould provide a Champion, who ſhould maintain and juſtifie what ſhe had ſaid; and that the Counteſs ſhould likewiſe provide her Champion, to fight with the other in vindication of her honour; and that if the Damſels Champion ſhould be vanquiſhed, the Damſel ſhould be burnt alive; and if the Counteſſes Champion ſhould be vanquiſhed, ſhe and her Children ſhould be bereft of all the Eſtate of her dead Husband, and left to ſeek their fortunes where they could. This was ſet down by the King as abſolute. Now the time of this Combat approaching, the King was going to Windſor, which was the place appointed where it ſhould be fought. The Earl's Brother did before hand believe what would be the King's order in the matter; and therefore he had provided a Champion for the Damſel, who was a monſtrous great Giant, bred up in the Iſle of Man, a Country thereto adjoyning. The Damſel being thus provided for, was out of all care and fear of further harm: but the Counteſs could not procure any to undertake her cauſe, (though all men believed her virtuous) ſo great was the terror every one had of this monſtrous Giant. And now was the time very near come, when the Combat was to be fought; and all Perſons concerned, and a very great Aſſembly of People were come together to Windſor. Our Prince Clarineo, now known by the name of the Knight of Cupid, went among others, and was very much concerned on the Counteſſes behalf; for he could not hear of any Champion that ſhe was provided with. He had ſome diſcourſes with his Squire Florello upon this occaſion, telling him, that he wondred at the cowardiſe of the Engliſh Knights, that would not undertake this Giant; adding, that if the Counteſs had no Champion, he himſelf would undertake her cauſe. Florello hearing this, and doubting ſome ſuch matter, replied, I queſtion not, my Lord, but that the Counteſs is wronged, and that ſhe hath bad fortune to have ſo monſtrous an Enemy, and none to undertake him; but withal, I think it would be deemed raſhneſs in you, who are wholly a ſtranger to her, to indanger your life

in a Combat ſo hazardous. The Prince replied, That he was bound, by the order of Knight-hood, to aſſiſt all Ladies, eſpecially thoſe that were diſtreſſed; and that he could not exerciſe his valour better then on this account: and (continued he) I ſhould not be worthy of my Lady *Florida*, if, for her ſake, I ſhall not aſſiſt thoſe that reſemble her. I, but (replied Florello) I know this, that if ſhe were here preſent, ſhe would hardly give conſent that you ſhould, upon any conſideration whatſoever, put your Perſon into ſo great hazard. I queſtion not but I ſhould perſwade her thereto, replied he; and to the end that you may hereafter acquaint her with this affair, we will go together to the Counteſs, and ſee in what condition ſhe is, and accordingly ingage for her. Hereupon they preſently went to the Counteſſes Lodgings, where they were admitted. The Knight of Cupid being entred, and ſate down, asked her, Whether ſhe was yet provided of a Champion? To which ſhe replied, No; and that the next day was the day appointed for the Combat: and then, continued ſhe, my Children will be undone, and it ſhall be the laſt day of my life; for it will be impoſſible for me to out-live my ſhame: and if all fail, I will be my own Executioner. She having ended her lamentable diſcourſe, finiſhed with ſuch a deluge of tears, that drew compaſſion from all there preſent.

The Knight of Cupid ſeeing ſo many accompany her in her lamentations, and none offer to aſſiſt her in her cauſe, told her, That he had ſo much confidence in the juſtice of her cauſe and innocency, that he would undertake the Combat in her behalf. She, hearing what he had ſaid, replied, Ah! Sir Knight, how much am I obliged to you for your kind offer, which I dare not accept of? not ſo much out of a ſenſe of my own misfortune, as for fear of yours; for the Monſter, who is the Champion of my Adverſary, is ſo mighty, that he is thought to be able to encounter with four of the beſt and valianteſt Knights in this Kingdom: therefore, Sir Knight, I ſhould be mighty ſorry to adventure you ſingle againſt ſo vile a Monſter; and then, ſhould you miſcarry, as I doubt you muſt, although I am innocent, I ſhould be then concluded guilty, and you would to no purpoſe loſe your life in my defence; therefore I think it beſt to conclude my ſelf unfortunate, and not make others, who are wholly unconcerned, ſuffer with me. To this the Knight of Cupid replied; Madam, if you pleaſe to accept of me for your Champion, do not queſtion any thing

elſe

else further; but leave all to Fate, that hath formerly strengthened me to overcome and vanquish Enemies altogether as redoubtable as this Monster. His Squire, Florello, hearing this, and being no longer able to forbear, said, Good my Lord, consider what you do; and remember, that as this Lady supposes she can have little benefit by your assistance; so (you know) the Princess *Florida* will (if you be unfortunate) receive so great a grief, that it will be the ending of her days: and so you will thereby be the occasion of the death of her your self, and do no kindness for the Countess, but rather leave her the more suspected. All that you can say (replied the Knight of Cupid) is nothing, for I question not the Victory, if there were two such Monsters; so great confidence have I (said he to the Countess) in the justness of your cause, and the assistance of that power that hath never yet failed me: therefore, if you please to accept me as your Champion, I will undertake the Combat on your behalf. The Countess, hearing his resolution, kindly thanked him; and he promised not to fail the next day to be ready Armed at all points in the Field; and so they parted.

The next day being come, and the hour of the Combat approaching, and all things provided to receive the Combatants, Judges, and Spectators, the King entred, and mounted on a Scaffold, where was also the Queen, and the chiefest of the Nobles; two Judges, who were appointed to be Judges of the Field, sate at the King's feet. The Countess, and her three Children, being clad in mourning apparel, sate by themselves; and the Damsel, with the Brother of the Earl, by themselves, on another Scaffold. All things being thus ordered, at the sound of several Trumpets, the Giant entred the Lists; he was mounted on a mighty Horse, and armed with an Armor made of the Shells of several Fishes, which were harder then any Diamond: his Helmet was carried by one Knight on foot, and his Lance by another. He being entred, the cause of the Combat was proclaimed, and the King's award thereupon: that done, the Judges demanded of the Damsel, If she would still justifie what she had said? She replied, Yes: and thereupon produced the Giant for her Champion. The Countess was then called to, and asked, Whether, or no, she was guilty of the fact wherewith she was charged? She replied, Not guilty. And her Champion being demanded, she told

the Judges, That her chiefeſt Champion was the God of Juſtice, from whom ſhe expected and hoped for Juſtice; but for any humane Champion, ſhe was unprovided. The Giant hearing this, began to prance about, and boaſtingly to ſay, What is it that deters theſe cowardly Knights, that they come not forth to the Battle? ſurely they all conclude her guilty, or elſe are fearful of my preſence; but if that be the cauſe, if any be ſo bold as to undertake her cauſe, I will ingage with any two, three, or four of them. That ſhall not need, proud Monſter, (replied the Knight of Cupid, who was now entred the Liſts) for I my ſelf (if the Lady pleaſe) will undertake you alone; and I queſtion not, but, the juſtice of her cauſe aſſiſting me, to make you, in this place, repent theſe arrogant ſpeeches. Young Baſtard, (replied the Giant) what madneſs poſſeſſes your brain, to be ſo bold to come into my preſence, whoſe very looks have vanquiſhed twenty ſuch Knights, and made them run away like ſheep? You ſhall find it much otherwiſe then you expect, (replied the Knight of Cupid) as I hope, ere many hours are paſt: and therefore, Madam, (ſaid he to the Counteſs) I hope you will admit me for your Champion, and then I will do my utmoſt devoir to vindicate your Honour. Alas, Sir, (replied ſhe) I muſt, and do accept of you; and if you have but as good ſucceſs as my cauſe deſerves, you may (though as yet improbably) expect the better in the Combat. He made his reverence to her; and then went to the Judges, who accordingly admitted him. He had hitherto been bare-headed, and thereby diſcovered one of the moſt manly, but withal, the moſt pleaſant countenances that had been ſeen; and he did ſomewhat reſemble that blind god Cupid that was pictured on his Shield: ſo that all the Spectators did much pity, that one ſo young and handſome ſhould indanger himſelf againſt ſo monſtrous a Creature. He having now made his reverences to the King and Queen, rode to the end of the Liſts, and took his Helmet from his Squire Florello, and his Lance from his Dwarf; and buckling on his Helmet, he, putting his Lance in his Reſt, expected the ſound of the Trumpets, which beginning, he ſpurred on amain, and encountring his Enemy on the breſt, made him bend backwards; and he himſelf had ſuch an encounter on the Shield, that it much bruiſed it, and ſo they paſſed on: but both of them finding that their Lances were yet whole, and that they had not much dammaged one another,

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they again began another carere, which was performed with such violence, that the Giant fell from his Horse; and the Knight of Cupid was dismounted, with his saddle between his legs. The Giant, who was fallen, soon got on his feet, and, being inraged at his misfortune, drawing his Sword, came up to the Knight of Cupid, who was hardly ready to receive him, he was so incumbred with the saddle, so that he received a mighty blow on the Helmet, that he thought all had been fire; but he coming to himself, returned the Giant so mighty a blows on the arm, that finding the way where the shells were closed, it much wounded him. He who had never found so weighty a blow from any Knight, or Giant, in all his life, was now so inraged, that seeing his blood come, he roared like a Bull, and lifting up his mighty Sword in the Air, intended to cleave the Knight in pieces; which he seeing avoided, but not so well, but that he was wounded in the leg. And now they, being both wounded, gave and received several blows, which made the blood to issue out of their wounds. Great was the wonder of the Spectators, seeing the Knight of Cupid hold out so valiantly against the Giant; who being so assured, as he thought, of the Victory, before he began, and now kept off so long, was grown mad with anger, and let fall so many blows, and so fast, that he was out of breath. This the Knight of Cupid saw, and only warded them with his Shield, or stepping aside avoided them. The Giant, although he was near tired with the continual pains he had taken, yet believing by the Knights only defending himself, and avoiding his blows, that he was near vanquished, laid on the faster, and that so long, that he was forced to retire for breath; which the Knight of Cupid seeing, he made up to him, and now, being in good heart and lusty, he poured so many blows upon the Giant, that he wounded him in several places, he being so unweildy, that he could not turn away with that nimbleness the Knight of Cupid had done; and now all were in good hopes that the Knight of Cupid would have the better of the Combat; for the Giant was so tired, that he could hardly defend himself, much less offend his Enemy; and the smart of his wounds much more tormented him. He was now therefore so much inraged, that he fell in upon the Knight, and desperately wounded him, though he received one himself; but being now near one another,

ther, the Giant addanced his Sword, and intended to have cut the Knight in twain; and much hurt it must of necessity have done him, had it hit him fully; but however, he was much prejudiced by the blow: for their Swords meeting, the Giants Sword cut the Knight of Cupid's Sword in two. Thus was our poor Knight distressed, being thus disarmed; and he had no way to help himself, but only by adolding the blows of the Giant, who now forced him about the Field at his pleasure. Much was the sorrow of all the Assembly; but that of the Countess exceeded them all: but the Page Florello, at this killing spectacle, had fallen down in the Field, if the Dwarf had not catched hold of him. The Knight of Cupid, seeing the condition he was in, like a valiant Knight, did not despair; but watched all opportunities to close with the Giant, and dispossess him of his Sword; but that was not only difficult, but dangerous: wherefore he seeing a Battle-ax hanging at the saddle-bow of the Giant, resolved to possess himself of that; wherefore he retired thitherwards, and being now near the Giant's Horse, he threw the Hilt, and that part of his own Sword that remained in his hands, at the Giants head, that he was astonished at the blow; and in the mean time seized on the Battle-ax. The Giant soon came from his astonishment, and now believing his Enemy to be quite weaponless, advanced towards him, but to his cost; for he not doubting any such matter, came so near, that the Knight of Cupid, hitting the Giant a blow with the mighty Battle-ax, cut off one of his arms, at which he roared like a baited Bull; and the Knight again following his blows, in two more laid him flat upon the earth, and so coming to him, and possessing himself of the Giant's Sword, he therewith smote off his head.

The Knight of Cupid having now, to the joy and admiration of the whole Company, killed his Enemy the Giant, and cut off his head with his own Sword, put it on the Swords point, and presented it to the Countess; saying, Now, Madam, behold! the effects of your Prayers and Tears have given me the Victory over your Enemy; and if this be not enough, let me know what is further to be done. The Countess, coming down from the Scaffold, threw her self at the Knight's feet, with many tears, embracing him: but he, taking her up, went to the King, and the Judges, who told him,

him, The Conditions of the Combat should be performed: whereupon the false Damsel was seized on, and a pile of Faggots being in readiness, she was carried thither to be burnt. She seeing that the end of her life was at hand, and being accompanied by some Religious Persons, they so far wrought with her, that she confessed, That the Accusation she had made of the Countess was false; and that she was hired thereto by the Countesses Brother in Law. The King, and the Judges, hearing of this, commanded her to be burnt immediately, as a punishment for her offence; and withal, banished the Countesses Brother in Law; so that, if after twenty days he should ever be seen in England, he should be hanged. And now justice being done on all sides, the Queen took the virtuous Countess, and her Children, into her company; and the King desired the valiant Knight of Cupid to go with him: the which he did, and stayed there with him several days; being all that time highly and honourably feasted and entertained by the King, and all the Court.

But some few days being passed, and he hearing no news of what he searched for, the Princess Magdalena, in order to his resolutions, he passed thorow the principallest places in England, till he came to Westchester; where, meeting with his Ship, he soon after embarqued, leaving the fame of the Knight of Cupid spread abroad in all that Country. Being now embarqued, with his trusty Squire and Dwarf, he sailed cross those Seas, and landed near the Port of Dublin, then called Ballicleagh, or the Town of Hurdles; it being, as most of all that Country is, built upon Hurdles laid upon a Bog. The whole Country of Ireland was at that time governed by one Monarch, who kept his chief residence at Dublin; but it was divided into four small Kingdoms, or Provinces, called, Lemster, Munster, Ulster, and Conaught: and over these there were several Kings, Earls, or Governors. The principal King himself, whose name was Owen Roe Oneale, governed the Province of Lemster particularly: the Governor of Munster, who was his Brother, and Father to Peter of Ireland, was named Mac Guire; the King, or Governor of Ulster, was named Owen O Conele; and the King, or Governor of Conaught, was named Owen Mac O Brian. These were the several Governments, and these were the several Governors of this Kingdom, whose Monarchy

chy was as antient as any in the World; for it was first formed into a Monarchy by King Gaelus, Son to Pharaoh King of Ægypt, in the time of the Patriarch Abraham, which was two thousand years before the Incarnation of our blessed Lord and Saviour; and it continues in the same way of Government to this day, never admitting of any but a Kingly Government.

CHAP. VII.

How the Knight of *Cupid*, being arrived in *Ireland*, was set upon by four Knights whom he vanquished, and afterwards more of their Companions; but at length he being overpowered by the Multitude, and refusing to yield to the King, was well nigh slain. How he submitted to the King, who told him of Wars in his Kingdom about *Honna* Princess of *Ulster*, who was beloved by the Prince of *Gonaught*, but could not be suffered to Marry him by reason of the Gyant *Flusteron*, who would compel her to be Married to him against her will. How the King with the Knight of *Cupid* went to the Wars, and after many bloody Battels, and the Destruction of many Cities, the War was ended by the sole valour of the Knight of *Cupid*, who in a single Combat slew the Giant *Flusteron*.

The valiant Knight of Cupid had no sooner set footing on the Irish shore, but he commanded his Horse to be disimbarqued, and he mounting his lusty Courser, armed at all points, and attended on by his dear Squire Florello, and his trusty Dwarf, who were also mounted, he advanced towards the City of Dublin; but long had he not travelled, but he was met by four Knights, armed at all points, who commanded him to stand: he did so, and asked their business. They replied, He must go with them to the King their Master, and take such an Oath as he would impose on him; or else leave his Horse and Arms behind him. He hearing their terms, and not being used to be compelled to any thing so unreasonable, answered, That he should not, with his good will, take any Oath, much less leave his Arms. They told him, That this he must do, or else they would compel him: and thereupon one of them drew near

near to ſeize on his Bridle; but he who was ſo forward, paid for his boldneſs; for he gave him ſuch a blow on the head, with the great end of his Lance, that he beat him breathleſs under his Horſes feet. His Companions ſeeing this, went all three to ſeize on him; but he turned his Horſe to avoid them, and thereby they paſſing on, he had the leiſure to put his Lance in his Reſt, ready to receive them. They ſeeing him thus provided for them, all three ran againſt him; and although all three did hit him together, yet they moved him no more then if he had been a Tower: but they fared not ſo well, for he encountred one with his Lance, ſo that he was thrown over his Horſes crupper; and he ſeized on another in his arms, as he paſſed by, and drawing him out of his ſaddle, threw him on violently againſt the ground: and the third, who at that time eſcaped, was worſer treated; for at the next encounter, he threw him to the ground, and his Horſe upon him: and thus theſe four Knights being diſmounted, he paſſed on. But they in ſhort time recovering their Horſes, and mounting again, purſued him, but at ſome diſtance, ſo that he was near the City Walls before they overtook him; and then they rode up to the Guard there, crying out, Stop the Traytor who hath outraged us. The Guard, which conſiſted of ſix Knights, and above twenty Halberdiers, at this cry, put themſelves in a poſture to ſeize on him; and one, who was bolder then the reſt, reaching out his arm to ſeize on his Bridle, for his preſumption, had it cut off near the ſhoulder; for the Knight of Cupid, having already loſt his Lance, had now only his Sword, with which he did ſuch execution, that although they preſſed all forwards together, yet he made them ſtand further off; and thoſe that came within the reach of his Sword, were either killed or maimed: ſo that in ſhort time all this Company were ſo routed, that they fled to the City Gate for refuge; and ſhutting it to, kept him from them. He ſeeing this, was forced to be content, and wait there to conſider what he had to do: but he had not waited long ere the Gate was opened, and a large power was ready to receive him; and in the middle of them was one who ſeemed to be their Chief, and who indeed was their King, Owen Roe O Neale; who hearing of the wonderful valour of this ſingle Knight, was himſelf come in perſon to ſee him. But he not taking notice of the great quantity

of Men, or the presence of the King, made his way towards them, who now having their King in their company, laid lustily about them, and he defended himself very couragiously; but however, being overpressed with the multitude that assaulted him on all sides, he could not hinder his Horse from being slain. He finding that his Horse was killed, leaped from him, and again put himself in a posture to withstand his Enemies; and as his Horse had served him living, so now he was serviceable to him being dead; for he leaving him behind him, hindred his Assailants from injuring him that way. The King all this while seing the mighty valour of the Knight of Cupid, was agast; but he had so great a power with him, that he was sure to kill him, if he pleased; but being desirous to have him alive, he cried out, Sir Knight, cease this fruitless exercise of your valour, for in the end you must certainly be slain, and surrender your self to me; who, on the word of a King, promise, that no harm shall be done to you. Our Knight, hearing this, replied, I cannot believe any one in a Country where I have been so discourteously used; and therefore I shall stand upon my own defence; and I hope before I die, yet to send a great number of your discourteous and villanous Subjects to the other World: and thereupon he still so laid about him, that the dead he had killed lay on heaps about him. The King now seing the death of so many of his Subjects before his eyes, and finding his mercy slighted, commanded a fresh party to fall on him, and hew him to pieces.

Just as the King gave this command, the Squire Florello, who had been all this while weeping at the sad condition of his Master, made way up to them, and throwing himself from his Horse, fell on his knees before the King, desiring him to stay the execution of his commands but for one minute, while he spake with his Lord. The King, by his gestures to his People, commanded them to stay: And then Florello, approaching his distressed Master, fell on his knees before him, Intreating him for Heavens sake, and for his dear Lady *Florida's*, to yield to the King, who, he knew, would be merciful. By this time the fury of the Knight of Cupid was asswaged; and considering, that if he should proceed in fight, he must needs miscarry; it being impossible for one single Knight to oppose an whole Kingdom; he therefore said to Florello, For her sake you named, I shall be ruled by you: and there-

thereupon he advanced towards the King, and taking the point of his Sword in his hand, he preſented the ſhell of it to the King, ſaying, I who never yet ſubmitted to any Perſon throughout the whole Univerſe, do now commit my ſelf into your hands and power, adviſing you to make ſuch uſe of it, as that no other Knight-errant, for my ſake, may have cauſe to complain of your breach of promiſe. The King accepted his Sword, and commanded he ſhould be guarded to the Caſtle: when he was come thither, he demanded, Why he had diſobeyed his firſt commands of being brought before him, he intending no more to him then to all others who arrived in his Coaſts? which was, to impoſe a reaſonable Oath. The Knight of Cupid replied, But it ſeemed to me to be unreaſonable to be compelled to any thing, I being willing of my ſelf to do all reaſonable things: therefore, Sir, (continued he) if you pleaſe to let me know what the Oath is I am to take, I ſhall then reſolve you, whether I think it reaſonable; and if ſo, I ſhall willingly ſubſcribe to it; but if it be otherwiſe, and that in point of honour I cannot do it, I will die before I yield to it. Although (ſaid the King) the loſs of ſo many of my Subjects, by you ſlain, calls to me for juſtice, and vengeance againſt you, yet I ſhall, as a lover of juſtice to you a Stranger, pardon that, ſo as for the future you do not diſobey me. Know then, (ſaid he) that the Oath I would have you to take, is this, *That you will not, without my leave, take up Arms for any other Prince in this Land*: and there is but juſtice in the caſe; becauſe it is owned by all, that I am the Supreme Governor in this Kingdom. I do not contradict what you ſay, (replied the Knight of Cupid) but however, I deſire, before I take an Oath, to be further ſatisfied in the meaning and reaſon of it. The King, being very willing to gain this Knight to his party, told him, that although the relation of the full cauſe was ſomewhat long, yet he would relate it to him, and thereupon began. This Kingdom, of which I am principal King and Governor, is alſo governed by three other Princes under me, whereof one is my Brother, and the other two, though allied to me, yet are at this time ſomewhat diſobedient; for, contrary to their Allegiance to me their Sovereign, they have made War againſt one another, to the diſturbance of my whole Kingdom; and although I have ſent to them to deſiſt, yet they are ſo obſtinate as to proceed: and now, I being intended, according to my duty to force them to theirs; and to that end, intending to

raiſe Forces to go againſt them, have thought fit to take order, That no ſtrange Knights that come into my Dominions, ſhall aſſiſt either of them, and ſo prolong the War; and to that end I impoſe this Oath.

I do believe, Sir, (replied the Knight of Cupid) that you have reaſon on your ſide; but yet I am not fully ſatisfied of my taking any Oath, until I know the cauſe why theſe two other Princes make War. That you may ſo, I am willing to ſatisfie you in every thing, replied the King. I tell you, that one of theſe Princes, named *Owen O Coneele*, who is Governor of a Province called *Ulſter*, hath a Daughter named *Honora*, who is very fair and virtuous; and, as I underſtand, is beloved by the other Prince named *Owen Mac O Brian*, who is Governor of another Province called *Conaught*; and, I believe, this Princeſs doth alſo love the ſame *Owen Mac O Brian*: but her Father is not willing (out of ſome former feuds and quarrels between them) to give her in marriage to him who loves her; but rather chooſes to beſtow her in marriage with *Fluſteron*, a furious Giant, who lives on the Mountains of *Callingford*, in the Province of *Ulſter*, and is indeed but his own Subject. The young Lady is very unwilling to be married to this Giant: and her Sweet-heart, the Prince of *Conaught*, out of deſire to have her himſelf, or at leaſt-wiſe to hinder her Father from beſtowing her on the Giant, hath raiſed an Army; and the Prince of *Ulſter*, her Father, by the aſſiſtance of his intended Son in Law, hath raiſed another; and they have already ingaged in a War: which although I have commanded them to deſiſt from, and to leave off, yet they ſtill proceed with ſuch violence, that many have, on both ſides, been ſlain; and all this whole Country, which hath for many years been governed by me in Peace, are now ingaged in a bloody War, either on one ſide or the other; and we are likely, if ſome ſpeedy courſe be not taken, to ruine one another: and for this end I thought fit to impoſe the Oath I have told you of.

The Knight of Cupid having given good attention to the King's diſcourſe, made this anſwer: Sir, I muſt confeſs you have Juſtice on your ſide,; and I am freely willing, not only to take the Oath you impoſe, but alſo to give you my utmoſt aſſiſtance in the War: but withal, I make bold to tell your Majeſty my opinion, that it is very unjuſt to compel the Princeſs *Honora* to be married to the Giant, whom ſhe loveth not; and therefore I am unwilling to aſſiſt in any thing to compel her thereto: and ſetting aſide that particular affair,

fair, I ſhall be ready to obey your Majeſty in any of your Majeſties commands; and, I hope, with ſo good ſucceſs, that I ſhall make your Majeſty ſome part of amends for the loſs of thoſe Subjects who have (through their own raſhneſs) fallen by my hand: for had they acquainted me with the matter, as your Majeſty hath done, I ſhould have been as obedient to them, as now I am unto your Majeſty.

The King replied, That ſince what was paſſed could not be helped, he hoped he would not take any thing amiſs on his part, and then all ſhould be forgotten. And thereupon the Knight of Cupid, taking his Oath, had his Sword delivered to him, and was conducted to Lodgings appointed him by the King; whitherto being attended, by his Squire and Dwarf, he retired, and diſarming himſelf, lay down to take ſome reſt, which he had great occaſion for, in reſpect of the great travel he had been at that day. And now the King having the Knight of Cupid in his Court, was reſolved forthwith to march with his Army, and try if he could compel theſe two angry Princes to agree, and lay down their Arms; and therefore he ſoon after marched towards the famous City of Drummore, in the Province of Ulſter, where then the Prince of that Province reſided. Being come near the place, he ſent a Meſſenger to command him, in his Majeſties name, to diſband his Army, and ſuffer all to depart; and promiſing that if he did ſo, he would command the Prince of Conaught to do ſo likewiſe; and if he ſhould refuſe ſo to do, he would turn his whole force upon him, and compel him alſo to do the ſame. The Giant Flaſteron, who was then in the Prince of Ulſter's Army, and repoſing much confidence in his own ſtrength, returned anſwer, That if he intended to be obeyed there, he muſt firſt ſee the Prince of Conaught obey him in what he ſaid, or elſe they were reſolved to defend themſelves.

The King hearing of this proud anſwer, was reſolved to proceed againſt them: and the Knight of Cupid, who had no affection for the Giant Flaſteron, but rather inclined to the part of the Prince of Conaught, adviſed the King to aſſault the City, and take it by force; and thereupon, in ſhort time after, the aſſault was given, and that ſo couragiouſly, that notwithſtanding all the reſiſtance of the King of Ulſter, or the Giant Flaſteron, it was taken; and this furious Monſter, ſeeing that he could not hold it,

with

was resolved, rather then any else should, to destroy it himself; wherefore he caused it to be set on fire in six several places: so that in few hours that proud and lofty City of Drummore was ruined, and still remains a sad spectacle to all Travellors.

The King of Ulster being forced out of this ruined City, fled, with the rest of his Army, to another City of his, called Dundalk, and there fortified himself: and the Giant, Flusteron, going to his own Territories, in the Mountains of Callingford, gathered together a very strong party, among which he brought many furious Monsters, and with this Recruit he relieved his intended Father in Law, the Prince of Ulster, then in Dundalk; and now believing themselves strong enough, not only to oppose the King, but to meet him in the Field, they went out of the City, but to their loss; for the Knight of Cupid, who commanded the Van of the Kings Army, did set upon the Giant, and his Party, so vigorously, that notwithstanding all the opposition he could make, he forced them into the City. The King had many approved good Knights, and some Giants who lived on the Mountains of Wicklow, in his own Province of Lemster; but more especially one who commanded the rest, and who was indeed but little inferior to the Giant Flusteron; and these two did often encounter each other, so that the Knight of Cupid had not yet had the opportunity of trying the force of the Giant Flusteron himself, but employing his courage in other places, soon made them fly before him. And now the Enemy was again inclosed within the City, and summons being again given him to obey the King's command, and he proudly refusing, they were assaulted with the same success as before; for after a violent resistance it was taken; and now the Knight of Cupid seeing they so much delighted in firing the former City of Drummore, caused the City of Dundalk to be also fired; and thus in few days were two brave Cities ruined. And now the King of Ulster being still obstinate, and perswaded by the Giant Flusteron, or else indeed over-ruled by him, they fled from one place to another, till they came to the City of Dundrom, which being a famous Sea-port Town, was reckoned to be very secure, and there the Princess Honora, Daughter to the King of Ulster, resided, she who had been the unhappy cause of all these Wars, which she considering of, and that she might be the cause of her Father's ruine, con-

considered also which way to prevent it; and therefore sent to her Lover, Owen Mac O Brian, Prince of Conaught, to desire him to lay down his Arms, and leave her to the disposal of her Father; for if he obstinately persisted, she would never have him, although free to dispose of her self; and seeing his first taking up of Arms against her Father had been for her sake, to hinder her marriage with Flusteron, so she desired him, that for her sake, he would also lay down his Arms; and then she questioned not but her Father would be induced to do so too, and a Peace would follow; and she hoped then so to order affairs, as that she might content him and her self. This Prince who was still in Arms in his own Province, and only waited the motions of the two other Armies, now hearing the desires of his Princess, knew not what to resolve on; but being willing to oblige her in all he could, and not thinking it convenient to lay down Arms till the War was ended, he resolved on a third course, which was, to take part with her Father, relieve and assist him against the King, and thereby, as he hoped, oblige him to bestow his Daughter on him; and therefore away he marcheth with all his Army towards the City of Dundrom, where the King and the Knight of Cupid had besieged the King of Ulster. The news of his approach surprized the King; neither did the Prince of Ulster know what he intended: but he soon sent a Letter to acquaint him, that although he had appeared his Enemy when alone in the Field, yet now, that he saw him likely to be oppressed by the King, and his numerous and victorious Forces, he would joyn interests with him, till he had free himself of so potent an Enemy; and that then afterwards it would be time enough for them to consider of their own private quarrel, which, he hoped, would be put to a good end; and that at least, if he would not let him have the happiness of having his Daughter, yet he would not compel her, against her will, to be married to another. The Giant Flusteron hearing of this message, and supposing it might turn to his disadvantage, would not permit the Prince of Ulster to return him any answer; but told him, that he would take such order, that the King of Lemster should soon be enforced to withdraw his Forces: and the way he propounded was this; that they, being well fortified, need not fear any assault in that place; and if they should be put to the utmost extremity, they might

might escape by sea; but he did not expect any such matters, because the Prince of Conaught would hinder the King from proceeding so forwards; and he leaving a sufficient Party to secure the Princess, left the City of Dundrom, and went to his own Country, and there raising another great Party, he roved up and down, and at length entring the Province of Lemster, in the King's absence, did much mischief, burning and destroying all places where he came, thinking by this means to force the King to raise his siege, and return home to guard his own Country. But the King not knowing of this mischief, but seeing the Forces of the Prince of Conaught, sent to know, why he came thither armed? commanding him to depart, and disband his Forces. He answered, that he could not indeed deny but that he was his Sovereign, and therefore ought to be obeyed; but that withal, what he did was for self-preservation, and to serve a Mistress whom he esteemed above all; for he believed that if he should permit him absolutely to conquer his Neighbor the Prince of Ulster, and thereby his Mistress would also be destroyed, it would not be long before he served him in the same manner, and so become absolute, not permitting them their antient Principallity, to which they had as much right as he to his absolute Sovereignty; and therefore the cause why he could not obey him at present, was, because he was resolved not to sit still, and first see his Neighbors Principallity taken from him, and then his own. This was the answer he sent; whereupon the King sent away to his Brother Mac Guire, Prince of Munster, and Father to Peter of Ireland, to raise what Forces he could, and come to his assistance, resolving to compel these two Princes to obey him. The Prince of Munster knowing of the War, and doubting of the events thereof, had already raised an Army to be in readiness, and therefore was quickly on his way to his Brother before Dundrom: but in the mean time the Giant Flusteron had committed many villanies; for he had surprized the antient City of Tredagh in Lemster, and destroying the Inhabitants, very much ruined the City it self; and now hearing that the Prince of Munster was ingaged against his Party, he marches into his Country, and spoils many places there, but more particularly the Town of Rabennee, which he set on fire: and now all the Kingdom of Ireland was ingaged

ingaged in a War which was very bloody, and all occasioned by the wilfulness of this Monster Flusteron, who now, supposing it necessary, makes all haste possible to the City of Dundrom, and getting into it, gives an account of his villainies. By the assistance which he brought, the City was so well relieved, that it was resolved they would no longer be inclosed within the walls, but go out and face, and fight their Enemies; knowing that if the Prince of Conaught did them no good, he would not harm them by assisting their Enemies; wherefore he, making all the Forces he could, marched out of the City, and being fleshed and encouraged by the success he had abroad, hoped to have the same here in the Field: and now, being resolved to fight, he questioned not but he should conquer; and therefore was so bold, as to send to the King to defie him, and to appoint a pitcht Battle three days after, or sooner, if he would. The King, hearing of his presumption, called his Councel, to advise what was to be done. And there the Knight of Cupid advised the King, to agree to the Battle to be fought three days after; and in the mean time to have a Truce, so that any single Persons might be free to visit their Enemies Camp, or City. All this was agreed on by all Parties: and the Knight of Cupid having leave of the King, and power to treat as he thought fit, was resolved to treat with all Parties, and see if by his prudent management he might put an end to this War without fighting: Whereupon, the chief occasion of this War being about the Marriage of the Princess Honora, he first went to her; and there he, examining her to every thing, found that she had an absolute antipathy against, and hatred to the Giant Flusteron, her intended Husband; and that rather then have him, she would destroy her self: and that, withall, she had as great a love for the Prince of Conaught, Owen Mac O Brian, whom she would with all her heart be married to. The Knight of Cupid having heard her mind, told her, that he would endeavor that she should have her desire; and therefore he went next to her Father, Owen O Coneele, Prince of Ulster, of whom he likewise desired to know, If he had any inclination to Peace? The old Man replied, he desired it above all things, being weary of the War long time since; and that he would have left it off, if the Giant *Flusteron* would have permitted him. The Knight of

Cupid hearing this, told him, The occasion of the War (as he understood, was, because he would compel his Daughter to marry with *Flusteron* against her own mind. Truly (replied the old Prince) I had no inclination that she should be married to *Owen Mac O Brian*, Prince of *Conaught*, because we have been ancient Enemies, and therefore was willing the other, my Friend and Subject, should have her; and that hath occasioned this unhappy War: but I now wish that it were otherwise, and did not care if she were married to the Prince of *Conaught*, or left to whom she her self should please, so I knew how to rid my self of *Flusteron*, who is grown now too potent for me, and over-rules all my Councels. As for that, (replied the Knight of Cupid) if you please to give your Daughter free leave to marry, I question not but I shall end the War without much more blood-shed, and that you shall be well enough rid of *Flusteron*. If it may be so, I should be content, replied the old Prince, and so they parted. And now the Knight of Cupid thought it expedient to go to the Giant Flusteron; where when he came, he told him that he had been the whole cause of the War; and that it would be well done of him to endeavor an end of it, by permitting the Lady Honora to chuse whom she would for a Husband. Why, whom should she choose but me; (replied the Giant, fiercely) who have best deserved her? It may be so she will, (replied the Knight of Cupid) and that it will be the best way to give her her own freedom. I shall not trust the peevish Baggage, (said the Giant) but I will have her alive or dead; and as I have, so I will always hazard my life to gain her. I would that young Princely Puppet of *Conaught* would either fight with me for her, or produce any body else that would do it, and then it should be soon seen who best deserves her. I must confess (said the Knight of Cupid) that for force and valour you may exceed him, but there are other qualities that a Lady expects above that. What should any Ladies expect, (replied the Giant) but to marry where their Parents think fit, and so obey those Husbands who can gain most from others, and thereby enlarge their own Dominions? This is your opinion, replied the Knight of Cupid; but I still advise you to let the Lady have her own chusing. Yes, if I were sure she will choose me, replied he; or else, if she will renounce all her interest to her Father's Principality, and he give me present possession of it. That were unreasonable, replied the Knight, I rather believe that the Prince of *Conaught* will pro-

produce a Champion to fight in hers and his own behalf. I should be glad to see him, (replied the Giant) and that shall be the end of the War. I will go ask him, replied the Knight, and so departed. And now, at last, going to the Prince of Connaught, he told him, That he had been much too blame to ingage a Kingdom in a War, out of pretence of assisting of a Lady. Then I perceive, Sir, replied the Prince, you have never been in love; for if you had, you would not value ten Kingdoms to a Ladies enjoyment. Well, but how do you think to gain her? replied the Knight; for I know that you must never have her, unless the Giant *Flusteron* be first dead, and that, I think, is somewhat difficult to be done. Truly, replied the Prince, rather then lose her, I would venture my own Person against that Monster. But do you imagine, said the Knight, that you should vanquish him? Truly, I much doubt it, replied the Prince; but I then could but die, and then all my sorrow would at once be at an end. The Knight of Cupid hearing him thus resolute, and pitying all Parties, and being desirous to make an end of this War, for the doing whereof there was but one way, told the Prince, that he would undertake the Combat on his behalf; and therefore desired him to agree to what he should direct, and then he questioned not but he should suddainly put an end to the War, to his own content. The Prince knowing well enough the great valor of the Knight of Cupid, as having heard of his fight at his first arrival in that Kingdom, and withal having seen other testimonies of his valour during the War, and believing that if he undertook the Combat, he should be successful, he therefore kindly thanked him for his generous offer, telling him, That if he would, on his behalf, enter the Combat against his Enemy, and conquer him, as he did not question, he would freely give him his Principality, only contenting himself with the injoyment of the fair Princess *Honora*. The Knight of Cupid hearing the generous offer of the Prince, replied, That he desired no other requital, but the honour of having done him that particular service, and, as he hoped, a general good to the whole Kingdom, that was now involved in a desperate War. The matter being now agreed upon as to the main, the Prince, at the directions of the Knight of Cupid, writ this Letter.

The Letter of Challenge from *Owen Mac O Brian*, Prince of *Conaught*, to *Flusteron* of the Mountains of *Callingford* in *Ulster*.

IT is not unknown to the whole Kingdom that the chief cause of these Wars hath been your pretensions and mine to the Princess *Honora*; and you and I both know, that but one of us can lawfully injoy her to Wife; and I have often heard, that you have several-times sworn, that none should have her so long as you were alive; whereupon I have often thought, that there is but one way to conclude upon Peace, and that must be very difficult and dangerous for me; however, I being now resolved to spare all further effusion of blood, as much as in me lies, do make this further offer, That I will, within these two days, expose either my own Body, or some others as my Champion, to fight with you body to body; and which soever shall remain Victor, shall have the Lady *Honora* as the Prize of his Conquest. If therefore you accept of these terms, I expect that you give sufficient Pledges for performing of the Conditions, as I on my part am willing to do. These Propositions being so reasonable, I expect your present Answer:

CONAUGHT.

This Letter was conveyed to the Giant Flusteron, who was so joyful of the news, that he told the Messenger, that his Pledges should return with him; and thereupon he went immediately to the Prince of Ulster, and told him, that the War would now in few days be ended, shewing him the Letter, and telling him, that he was resolved on the Combat, and therefore desired him to propound his Pledges for the performance of the Articles. The old Prince gladly accepted of the terms, and sent the Pledges, and then the Prince of Conaught sent his; and every one of the Princes, being acquainted with the terms of the Combat, sent Pledges to each other.

These news were not carried so privately, but that the Squire Florello heard thereof, and understood that his Lord, the Knight of Cupid, was to perform the Combat with this monstrous Giant; wherefore, as being sufficiently concerned in the great hazard he would

would undergo, he used all the Arguments he could to dissuade him therefrom: But so great was the Knights love of Glory, that I believe he would have proceeded, although the Squire had truly discovered himself to be the Princess Florida; for notwithstanding the many tears which were shed to dissuade him, he persisted in his resolution. And now all the Princes were joyful that there was so great a probability of ending the Wars. But when the Giant Flusteron heard who was to be his opposer, and fight against him, he so much disdained him, that he now ascertained himself of the Victory.

The day and hour appointed for the Combat being come, both the Combatants met in a place in the view of all the Armies, and being both ready fitted, they ran at each other with such violence, that both their Lances flew into hundreds of pieces in the Air, and they encountring with their Bodies, made one another sensible of the great strength that was in them. But they wheeling about, drew their sharp cutting Swords, and laid on most couragiously. The Knight of Cupid, who was no Novice in this art of fighting, gave the Giant so mighty a blow on the Shield that he cut it in two, and descending, wounded the Giant in the thigh; but he soon paid him for that blow, by returning him another, and wounding him in the shoulder. And now our Knight was in short time at the same loss here, by the same defect of his Sword, which flew in pieces, as he had been at Windsor; and the Giant struck him so furiously, that his also brake near the hilt; wherefore they seeing the disadvantage they both had, they resolved on a second way of fighting, which was with closing, and trying the strength of each others arms, the Giant supposing he should be too hard for his Enemy in that manner of fighting; but the Knight of Cupid not only cleared himself from his Enemy, but drawing a Poniard, stabbed him in several places. He seeing this, was as furious as a Lion, and running to a tree that grew thereby, and plucking it up with violence by the roots, began a new fight therewith. But our Knight had by that time possessed himself of a Battle-ax, which he had hanging at his Saddle-bow, and therewith closing with the Giant, still as he had made a blow, wounded him in several places, so that he grew faint and weary; and curling, swearing, and blaspheming, he ran about the Field like a

Mad-

Pad-man: the Knight of Cupid ſtill following him, in ſhort time ſeeing his advantage, with one blow cut off his Legs, when, he falling on the earth, he with another blow cut off his Head from his ſhoulders.

CHAP. VIII.

How the Giant *Fluſteron* being ſlain, all Parties conſented to the Marriage of the Prince of *Conaught*, and the Princeſs *Honora*. How the Knight of *Cupid* acquainted the Prince of *Munſter*, and his Princeſs, of the life of their Son *Peter*; and how he found out the Princeſs *Magdalena*, by means of his Squire *Florello*, who alſo diſcovered her ſelf to be the Princeſs *Florida*. How the War between the Souldan of *Babylon*, and the Emperor of *Trebizond*, was ended by the death of the Emperor, and the marriage of the Prince *Baltazano* with the Princeſs *Florexa*: and of the marriage of the Knight of *Hope*, and the Princeſs *Matarosa*. And laſtly, of the arrival of the Knight of the *Keys* in *Ireland*, at the Wedding of the Prince of *Conaught*, and the Princeſs *Honora*, the Knight of *Cupid*, and Princeſs *Florida*.

THe Giant being thus ſlain, there was no Perſon diſſatisfied, only ſome few of his particular Friends; who although they were troubled at his loſs, yet at a time of ſo general joy, they put on as pleaſant countenances as the reſt. The Princeſs Honora, in few days, by the importunity of the Prince of Conaught, and with the conſent of the Prince her Father, agreed to be married to him. And now all the ſeveral Armies were disbanded; and all who had not a deſign to mirth and jollity, at the Wedding which was ſuddainly to be ſolemnized, went to their particular habitations. And the Prince of Munſter, who had a very great love to the Prince of Conaught, deſired all Parties to go to his Court at the City of Wexford, deſiring that the Wedding might be kept there; he promiſing to be at the whole expence of it, as not having had any joy, or recreation, at his Court, ſince the news of the ſuppoſed loſs of his Son Peter of Ireland, Knight of the Keys; and now all Parties, at this invitation, went thither, and nothing

was

was thought on but Triumphs, and Tournaments, to be held for some days, when this Wedding should be solemnized.

The Knight of Cupid having happily accomplished the affairs of others, now thought of his own; and being in discourse with his beloved Squire Florello, who had intreated him to dispatch, and return to his Lady Florida, had promised so soon as this Wedding was over to return to her, and cease his fruitless search after the Princess Magdalena; for he had inquired of the Prince of Munster, but could hear no news of her. But he had not as yet undeceived the Prince, who supposed his Son Peter to be dead, by acquainting him with the news of his life, and good health; wherefore he was resolved now, at the time of this general joy, to tell him the whole story, and thereby cause a particular joy to himself, that intended it only for the Fathers sake; and knowing that the Mother of the Knight would be as much joyed as the Father, he therefore one day told the Prince, that he had some news to tell him, which he believed would please him; but withal, he desired that his Wife might be present at the relation. The Prince, at this, presently taking him by the hand, led him directly to the place where his Lady was, telling her, that this fortunate Knight of Cupid had somewhat to acquaint them withal, which, he questioned not, would be pleasing to them, since his coming into that Country had been so pleasant to all in general. Ah! replied the Princess with a sigh, I never expect any good news again, since I had that unpleasant sight of the red Purse with the Jewels, which I gave to my unfortunate Son *Peter*. Madam, replied the Knight of Cupid, before I shall relate to you what I intended, I desire of you to tell me what you mean by that red Purse with Jewels, for I know somewhat of that Adventure. I shall soon satisfie you in that unfortunate story, replied she, and so began. I had (said she) a Son, named *Peter*, who was a very hopeful Person, and being Knighted, desired, as other young men do, to travel abroad in the world to seek Adventures; his Father and I, both unwillingly permitted him; and at his departure I gave him a red Purse, and in it three Jewels, giving him a charge to be careful of them: but so it is, that he in some unfortunate Sea-voyage lost them, and, I believe, his life; for the very same Purse and Jewels came since to my hands in the belly of a Sturgeon; and from thence I conclude, that he at that time perished, for I could never

never hear any news of him since his departure. And at this she concluded her discourse, with a great sigh, followed by some tears. The Knight of Cupid much wondered at the strange adventure of the Purse; but however he soon guessed how formerly it had happened, and soon gave them a particular account of their Son Peter. The old Prince, and Princess, hearing this joyful news, were so glad, that she, good Lady, fell into a swoon for joy; but, by the assistance of her Damsels, soon recovered, and would have embraced and kissed the Knight of Cupid for his good news: but he desired her to be patient, and he would relate the whole of her Sons Adventures to her; and thereupon he acquainted them of his arrival in Sardinia; his love to the Princess Magdalena; her leaving her Parents to travel with him; their shipwrack on the Isle of Sicilia; the loss of the Purse and Jewels, which occasioned the loss of the Princess; and his great pains in searching for her; in which search, said the Knight of Cupid, I am now engaged.

And thus did the Knight of Cupid finish his discourse, not only to the great joy and satisfaction of the Parents of the worthy Knight Peter, but also all the Family, all the City, all the Province, nay, all the Kingdom rejoycing thereat: and now was the Knight of Cupid much more honoured by all then he had been; more especially by the Prince of Munster, who entertained him in his own Palace, and was very desirous to know his Quality, which our Knight as yet concealed, telling him however, that he should know it before he parted.

And now the Court being filled with this good news, it was not long before it came to the ears of Magdalena, who was much joyed thereat, and thought to discover her self; but she was prevented by the Squire Florello, who, seeing Magdalena, knew her, and being admitted to her presence, thus began: I am very much mistaken if I have not formerly been very well acquainted with you; and that, if you look earnestly on me, as I have done on you, you may know me through the disguise I am now in, as well as I do you though disguised, as I am sure; you are *Magdalena*. Knowing that the Speaker was in the right, as to her disguise, she looked earnestly; but all that she could answer, was, That indeed the features of the face were known to her, but in that habit she could discover no further; but, said she, if you do know me, as you say, I pray tell me of that know-

knowledge, and then I ſhall the better judge who you are alſo. I know, replied Florida, that you are the Princeſs *Magdalena* of *Sardinia*; and if you look well on me, you may alſo know me to be your Couſin *Florida*, Princeſs of *Sicilia*. At theſe words they joyned arms and bodies, and embraced one another; and having ſpent ſome time in that pleaſing exerciſe, the Princeſs Magdalena ſaid, Dear Couſin, ſince you know me, you alſo know the reaſon of my preſent diſguiſe; wherefore, I pray, tell me the reaſon of yours. The very ſame reaſon, replied Florida; Love is the occaſion: and now you are found, my Adventures are at an end. Whereupon ſhe acquainted her with all her particular Adventures; as, her Love to the Knight of Cupid, and her ſtrange attending him thus diſguiſed. And now theſe two Ladies became pleaſant, and conſulted what was neceſſary to be done to compleat their happineſs; and therefore it was concluded, that the Princeſs Florida ſhould, with the firſt convenience, diſcover all to the Knight of Cupid; and after that ſeveral diſcourſes had paſſed between them, how they ſhould manage their affairs, they ſeparated. Florida ſoon found out the Knight of Cupid, who could not well endure her out of his company; and they coming into a convenient place, ſhe thus began. My Lord, I hope you intend in few days to leave this place, and return to my Lady. - Yes, replied he; but I would gladly find the Princeſs *Magdalena*, and then I would make all poſſible haſte to ſee my Lady. And will you, replied ſhe, be married to her ſo ſoon as you ſee her? Aſſure your ſelf, replied the Knight, that the firſt moment I ſhall ſee her, I will be married to her, if ſhe deſires it; and I will never have any other deſires but what ſhall pleaſe her. Well then, replied Florida, I ſhall tell you ſome news that will pleaſe you; and thus it is, I have heard of the Princeſs *Magdalena*, and to morrow I will acquaint you further of her. The Knight of Cupid hearing this, deſired preſently to be further ſatisfied; but Florello asked leave till the next morning to perform his promiſe: and that being come, they both aroſe; and Florello, who muſt now loſe that name, left the Palace, and went to the Monaſtery; where, according to appointment, a very fair Gown, and other neceſſaries, according to the quality of a Princeſs, was provided, and Florida dreſſed therein: by ſuch time as this was done, the Knight of Cupid was come, and admitted to the preſence of the Principal;

where he thus began: Madam, I was informed that you could give me some account of a strayed Princess, named Magdalena. Truly, replied she, I know somewhat of her: but there is a Lady in this place, that can give you certain intelligence of her. I beg the favor then, said the Knight, to see and speak with this Lady. That you may, said Magdalena; and thereupon coming into the Room where the Lady was desired, took her by the hand, and, being vayled, led her out. She came near the Knight of Cupid, and stood some time vayled; and he earnestly expecting to see and speak to her: but at length she turned up her vayl, and discovered her self to be the true Princess Florida. Our Knight now looking earnestly on her, started back, as amazed, and cryed out, What do mine eyes behold! I come to inquire after anothers Lady, and find my own, or one so like her, that they may be well of near kin to one another. Speak, Madam, I beseech you, said he, and satisfie my troubled spirit. You are not at all mistaken, replied the Princess; and seeing you made such tarriance, I have left my Country to find you. He hearing her speak, and that in her perfect tone, ran and saluted her; and inquired how she got thither: and so many questions he asked together, that it was impossible to answer him. He told her, that a Squire whom she sent to serve him, had told him, that at that place he should hear of the Princess Magdalena; but, said he, though I should have been very joyful to have found that Lady, yet I am much more glad to see you. That Squire of yours, replied Florida, can be as good as his word. Then I will soon find him, replied the Knight. But without my help you cannot, answered Florida; and with my help you may find not only him, but the Princess Magdalena also. Oh, dear Madam, said the Knight, make me so happy as to unfold these riddles. Yes, replied she; but withal, you will first, before this holy Woman here, said she, promise to perform your promise of marriage to me. With all my heart, replied the Knight; and I am very joyful that you propound that which will make up all my happiness: and thereupon he promised to be married to her the next day, or so soon as she pleased. He having finished his promise, she said, And now I will be as good as my word; and taking the Principal by the hand, she presented her unto him, saying, Here, behold the end of your travels, for this is the Princess Magdalena.

dalena. The Knight was now as much astonished at the discovery of the Princess Magdalena, as he had been at her own discovery; and kissing her hand, told her, that he now accounted himself happy indeed; in that he had not only recovered his own Lady, but performed his promise to his Friend Peter: But, said he, I am beholden to my Squire Florello for all this happiness; and therefore although I am much delighted with your companies, yet I shall be glad to have his, who only can resolve me of all things. I tell you, replied Florida, that you cannot without me speak with him. You tell me wonders, replied the Knight; and I shall after this rate believe, that all I have seen this day is but a dream, and that you are but my imaginary Lady. Nay, replied she, if this surprizes you, I am sure that what I shall next tell you will do much more. I beseech you, Madam, said he, let me hear it, that all my wonders may be over wonders, I may well call them, and this the day of wonders to me. You desire, replied she, to see Florello, your Squire; look on me, do you see me? Yes, said he. And do you know me? Yes, said he, for my Princess Florida. And do you know Florello when you see him? said she. I think I do, said he; it is not long since I saw him. That is true, replied she; but withal I tell you, you do not know him, nor never shall again. Why? was he a Spirit? replied the Knight; if he were, he was a blessed one to me. No, said she, no more a spirit then I am; and, lest you should suppose me to be one, I give you my hand to feel. I am sure, said he, that this is flesh and blood. And so was Florello, said she; but now no more Florello, but Florida: I was he. How! Madam, said the Knight, this cannot be possible; I am amazed indeed, and confounded, and shall distrust the rest, and all to be a dream, or else conjuration. I will assure you, Sir, said Magdalena, all that hath been hitherto told you, is true; and to convince you of the truth of this last particular, which you so much doubt, behold the habit this Lady wore this morning when she came in hither; and therewith produced the clothes of Florello. Nay, then, said the Knight, I do believe all the rest: and then running to the Princess Florida, and strictly embracing her, he cryed out, Ah my dear Princess, my beloved Florello, what shall I call you that have so often deceived me when I lay in bed with you, and wished for you

who was so near me, and you unkind refused to acquaint me. Well, replied the Princess blushing, let all that be forgotten; and now, I hope, you will conclude all true, and are confirmed in my love to you. A dull Fool I was, replied the Knight, that I could not all this while make this pleasant discovery: I now remember the tenderness you had for me when I fought with the Giant at Windsor; the pity you had for me, when by my rashness I had like to have thrown away my life at my first arrival in this Kingdom; and the arguments you used to dissuade me from fighting with the late Giant Flusteron here. Any of these considerations had been enough to have opened mine eyes, and discovered you: but I by that now know your great love, which, Madam, said he, I shall endeavor through the whole course of my life to retaliate, in being wholly at your dispose; and thereupon he again kissed and embraced her.

And now some time having been spent in this discovery, they all three sate down to consult what was necessary to be done: and after various propositions, it was concluded, that the Princess Magdalena should discover her self to the Prince and Princess of Munster, to the end their Son Peter hearing of it, might make the more haste home. And therefore the Knight of Cupid went that day to the Prince, and told him, that he had more good news to acquaint him withal; and his Lady being in company, he told them, that as he had brought them news of their Son, so he could quickly bring him home, by putting that Lady, the Princess Magdalena, whom he was in search of, into their custody. They both told him, that if he could do that, it would be an infallible way, and therefore he told them the whole story; that the Principal of Saint Peter's Monastery, was the Princess Magdalena; and that he was assured of this by a Lady, and Princess of his, named Florida, who was lately come into her Company. So joyed were the old Prince and Princess of this news, that they went presently to the Monastery; and after many discourses with the fair Magdalena, they brought her, and the Princess Florida, to Court: and the fame of this Adventure quickly ran through all the Court and City, so that the Princess Honora soon came to visit them; and so did all the Princes and Princesses, Lords and Ladies of the Court; who all joyed, and wondred at

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the great Beauty of these two excellent Princesses, Magdalena, and Florida. And the Story of the Adventures of these two Ladies was so rare and excellent, that it is remembred, and celebrated throughout Ireland to this day.

And now nothing but Triumphs were thought of against the Wedding of the Prince of Connaght, and the Princess Honora: and the Knight of Cupid intended also on that day to be solemnly married to the Princess Florida. Nothing was wanting to compleat the happiness of all this Court, but the presence of the valiant Knight Peter, whom we having left in the Army, before the City of Pharez, we will go thither to him.

Many assaults did the Prince of Numidia give to the City of Pharez with different fortune, for he was not always Conqueror. And the Knight of the Panthar, in hopes to gain the affection of the Princess Floreza, behaved himself very valiantly; but he finding that his valour did not produce the desired effects, applied himself to treacherous courses, and so managed his design, that he gained the absolute command, not only of the whole City and Army, but also of the Princess Floreza. The Prince of Numidia understanding of these affairs, leaving the command of the Army to the Knight of Hope, disguised himself; and being accompanied with Peter of Ireland, and several valiant Knights, they were, as Friends to the Knight of the Panthar, admitted into the City; but although they really were Friends to the Princess Floreza, yet they approved themselves to be Enemies to him, and his designs; for the Prince of Numidia in short time so gained upon the affections of the Citizens, that the Princess Floreza was released, and the Knight of the Panthar first put into safe custody, and in short time after executed as a Traytor. And then the Princess Floreza, understanding that it was the Prince of Numidia to whom she was obliged for her deliverance, she not only acknowledged the kindness, but they agreed upon a truce for the present, and soon after, news being brought from Babylon of the death of the Emperor her Brother, a firm Peace was agreed upon, which was fully confirmed by the marriage of these two worthy Personages, Baltazano Prince of Numidia, and Floreza now Empress of Trebizond. And now this long lasting War being finished, to the content of all Parties, they all designed and took their journey

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Babylon; where when they were arrived, they were highly welcomed, and entertained by the Souldan, and Don Bellianis, and his incomparable Princess Florisbella: and to compleat the joys of all the Court, the Knight of Hope was recompensed for his services by his marriage with the Princess Maturozi. These things being thus happily dispatched at Trebizond and Babylon, the valiant Knight Peter of Ireland, thought it high time to leave that part of the World, and travel homewards, and in his way to search for his beloved Princess Magdalena; but although he had great trouble in the inquiry, yet it was to no purpose; till in the end he arrived in his own Country, and there he soon heard of a great triumphant Feast, that was to be in few days after held at the Marriage of Owen Mac O Brian, Prince of Conaught, and the Princess Honora, and his beloved Friend Don Clarineo and Florezia; he was surprized at the recital of his Friend Clarineo's being there, but much more when he understood the joyful news of his Princess Magdalena; but however he so well contained his joy, that he won the honour of the day at the solemn Tilting held in honour of these Nuptials; and at night he discovered himself to his Father, Mother, and Lady, and their Friends, to the great joy of all, and compleated the joy of the Irish Court, by the solemnization of his Wedding to the Princess Magdalena, which was in few days after performed. And now having joyned these great Personages together to their great joy and contentment, I shall conclude this History.

FINIS.